■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Adam Sandler eyed for movie on Cebu

■ SPORTS / A28

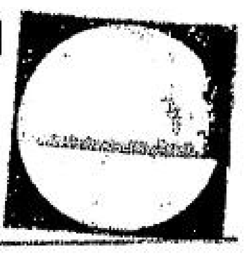
Rosales runner-up to Sorenstam in Mizuno Classic

■ WORLD / A12

200 arrested, 900 cars torched in new French riots

■ LIFESTYLE / C1

The abstract sun also rises



Terror suspect surfaces, denies gov't allegations

By Fe Zamora

SUSPECTED TERRORIST TYRONE DEL Rosario Santos, alias Dawud Santos, surfaced Saturday in Quezon City to belie government allegations that he was in hiding or had jumped bail.

In fact, Santos said he had a chance to "go

TERROR/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Detecting bird flu easy as taking pregnancy test

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christine Avendaño

TWO BARS MEAN POSITIVE, one bar means negative—and the country can heave a sigh of relief.

It's not a pregnancy

DETECTING/ A22

KAPAG ONE BAR, SAFE SA BIRD FLU!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph nber 7, 2005 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 332 P18 website: www.inq7.net

JOAN BONDOC

AM JUST AROUND. Alleged terror suspect Tyrone David del Rosário denies he had jumped bail and gone into hiding. He is expected to file a motion in court today contesting rebellion charges against him.

Rape victim's family bent on pursuing case

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—"WE ARE BENT ON pursuing the case."

The mother of the Filipino woman allegedly raped by American soldiers on the night of Nov. 1 here issued this statement following a meeting with three lawmakers yesterday, Zambales Rep. Milagros Magsaysay told the INQUIRER.

"The family is sticking to the story that the victim was raped," said Magsaysay, who was accompanied by Representatives Antonio Cuenco of Cebu City and Teodoro Locsin Jr. of Makati City.

The family's statement came amid a report that Timoteo Soriano, driver of the van the US Marines supposedly rented and used in the alleged rape, was preparing to recant his state-

RAPE/ A4

Bibles nurture hopes of poor

By Blanche S. Rivera

"MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE."

No one appreciates this passage from the Bible better than the women of Baseco.

Living in the poor compound in Tondo, Manila, the wives and mothers at Baseco every day face the problem of not having enough food on the table. But it is the quest for hope, more than food, that is the poor's biggest challenge.

"The people here need to raise their morale. They need a reason not to lose hope, a motivation to dream big and believe that their lives need not be defined by the poverty of this place," said Mario Valera, a pastor at Baseco for more than two years now.

This is what the Philippine Bible Society, a 106-year-old organization that gives free Bibles to Christians all over the world, is

BIBLES/ A22

One-armed suspect not Abu leader

Police free Zamboanga 'sabungero'

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

DIPOLOG CITY—THE long arm of the law caught up with the wrong one-armed Commander Putol.

And it was the left arm that gave the man away.

Less than a day after a buoyant President Macapagal-Arroyo went on television to announce the capture of Abu Sayyaf chief of staff Radulan Sahiron, the Philippine National Police struggled with a retraction, saying it had bagged the wrong man.

"Only a look-alike," PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said.

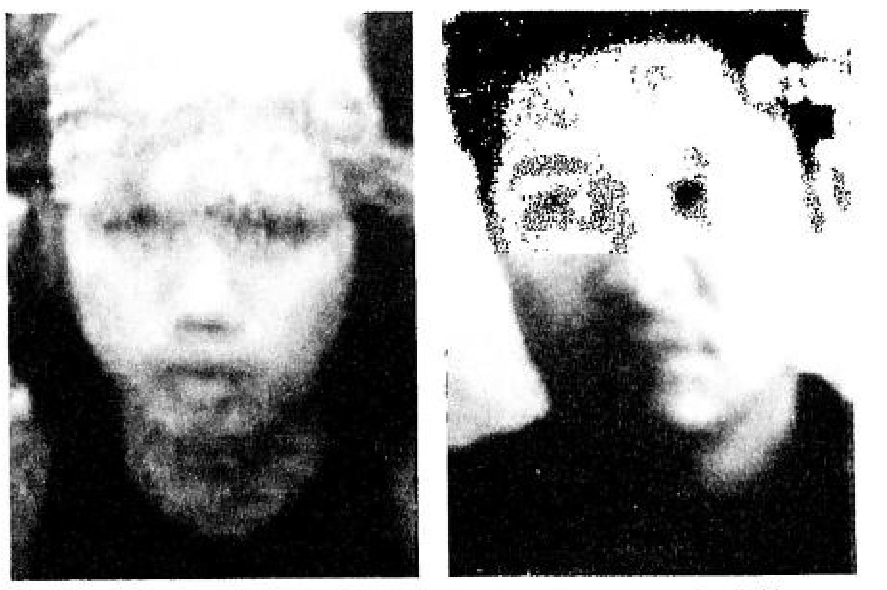
Lomibao issued the retraction hours after a spokesperson of the US Embassy welcomed the news of the "capture" and said the embassy was congratulating the Arroyo administration.

Linked to 21 kidnap-for-ransom cases, including the 2000 abduction of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers in Sipadan, Malaysia, Sahiron is included on the $5-million reward list of the United States.

Lomibao brought this reporter to Dipolog to help identify the captured man.

But it was not Sahiron whom a special antiterror team flown in from Manila with utmost secrecy had arrested. The man the team had grabbed was identified by police sources as Antonio Gara, a 43-year-old Subanon native known in the community as a *sabungero* (cockfight aficionado).

ONE-ARMED/ A6



WRONG MAN. At left is a file photo of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron, alias Commander Putol. At right is Antonio Gara, of Zamboanga Sibugay, whom police mistook for the notorious bandit.

Environmentalists tell Enrile: Let Samar be

By Blanche S. Rivera
in Manila
and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

IT'S WAR, THEN.

Environmental groups, the provincial government and the influential Catholic Church on Samar Island are gearing up for battle with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who has rejected the Samareños' appeal to spare their forests from his firm's logging operations.

Jose Mabulay Jr., comanager of the $12.8-million Samar Island Biodiversity Project, a UN-funded program which seeks to preserve the island's forests, said the people of Samar were no longer pleading but screaming at Enrile to let the island be.

"That is their forest. Very few Samareños appeal to Enrile; a great majority are inclined to scream, 'Leave us alone.' He has done more than enough damage to homes, farms and lives," Mabulay told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

He said the "wide and strong opposition" to the resumption of logging in Samar, particularly within the 330,000-hectare Samar Island Nature Park, would meet any attempts by Enrile's firm, San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC), to start logging operations.

Enrile said Saturday his company would proceed with logging in Samar. "If the environmentalists want to expropriate my property, let them do it. But they can't tell me how to handle our rights," he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources upheld on Aug. 16 the timber license agreement of SJTC on a 95,770-hectare area inside the nature park's strict protection zone. It even extended SJTC's permit for another 16 years.

This ended 16 years of a logging

ENVIRONMENTALISTS/ A8

New RP biodiversity poster creature: Giant fruit bat

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM STIER, BAT LEARNING CENTER, SUBIC

THE PHILIPPINE giant fruit bat can attain a wing span of over 6 feet (1.8 m).

By DJ Yap

IT IS NEITHER KINGLY, LIKE THE PHILIPPINE eagle, nor cute and cuddly, like the tarsier. It has none of the mystique of the tamaraw, nor the serenity of the whale shark.

It is noisy, smelly and pesky. It is also rather frightening.

But the latest poster creature of biodiversity and forest conservation has its charms, too.

Meet *Pteropus vampyrus lanensis*, otherwise known as the Philippine giant fruit bat, the biggest "flying fox" in the world and king of the lowland forests of Central Luzon.

Environmentalists are waging a campaign using the giant fruit bat as a symbol of the urgency of ecological protection in the country.

Hoping to educate more Filipinos about environmental concepts, such as biodiversity and balance

NEW RP/ A22

FILIPINOS may not notice the Philippine giant fruit bats but they are flying right in their midst.

RYAN LIM

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas, Eastern and Southern Mindanao, and Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/07/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Marshals find bomb-making materials on SuperFerry 2

By Leila B. Salaverria

SEA MARSHALS OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST Guard yesterday arrested two men and seized an undetermined amount of banned substances used in the manufacture of explosives aboard the SuperFerry 2 bound for Dumaguete City.

The banned substances, believed to be ammonium nitrate or aluminum phosphate, were found on one of the two men. A camouflage jacket and a security guard's uniform were also found in their possession.

Arrested were Daniel Bobila of St. Mary Village in Camarin, Caloocan City, and Editho Bobila of Sikatuna Village, Quezon City. Both men listed their provincial addresses as Cabancalan, Zamboanga del Sur.

The two were arrested while the SuperFerry 2 was en route to Dumaguete City from Cebu. It had come from Manila earlier. The two men were bound for Dipolog City, the ship's next stop.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo said the PCG would have the confiscated substances analyzed to determine if they were ammonium nitrate or aluminum phosphate. Ammonium nitrate, normally used as fertilizer, is a key ingredient of explosives.

Sea marshals also found in the ship's cargo hold a disposable lighter and four cans of phosphine gas, labeled "Detiagas XB," a highly flammable and poisonous substance used for fumigation, according to a PCG report.

Balilo said the authorities suspected the flammable substance belonged to at least one of the men after one of them was seen in the cargo hold prior to the discovery.

According to the PCG, a crew member informed a sea marshal about a man who came out of the cargo area and then proceeded to the restricted section of the vessel after 1 a.m, yesterday.

The sea marshal approached the man, who turned out to be Daniel, and asked him what he was doing in the restricted area. The latter allegedly looked uneasy.

The sea marshals then conducted a body search on him and found nails, a can of sardines and a crystal-like substance suspected to be ammonium nitrate or aluminum phosphate.

After the discovery, the marshals escorted Daniel to his quarters and conducted a search on his companion Editho and the latter's baggage. They found a glass cutter, a tape measure, electrical tape, a camouflage jacket and a blue guard's uniform.

During a subsequent search of the cargo area, the sea marshals found the lighter and four cans of phosphine gas.

Bush names US ambassador to RP

By Nikko Dizon

US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush will nominate a senior diplomat as the next US ambassador to the Philippines, the US Embassy has announced.

"The President intends to nominate Kristie A. Kenney of Virginia to be the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines," the US Embassy website quoted a White House statement.

If confirmed by the US Senate, Kenney would be the first woman American ambassador to the Philippines.

Kenney would also be assuming her post amid domestic political controversies and sensitive issues.

These include alleged leaked US Embassy reports containing analyses critical of the Philippine political situation and some of its leaders, and the recent rape complaint filed by a Filipino woman against several US Marines.

According to the White House statement, Kenney is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. She most recently served as ambassador to Ecuador. She also served as senior advisor to the assistant secretary for international narcotics and law enforcement of the US Department of State.

She had been an economic counselor in Geneva, Switzerland; economic officer in Argentina, and consular officer in Jamaica.

The last US ambassador to the Philippines, Francis Ricciardone, ended his tenure in May. Charge d' Affaires Paul Jones is currently the highest ranking US diplomat in the Philippines.

Face-off: JDV vs Pichay in House today

By Michael Lim Ubac

WILL SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA lose his grip on the House leadership to Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay?

This question will be answered today when Pichay formally declares his bid for the speakership after the House of Representatives resumes sessions this afternoon.

But until yesterday, Pichay, who is being supported by the Mindanao bloc of congressmen, continued to play coy about his real intentions. "I have not (formally) declared that I'm running for Speaker. I will continue to make consultations, then I will decide," he said in Cagayan de Oro City.

De Venecia, however, remained confident the majority coalition led by the Lakas-CMD, which he heads, was fully behind him. "Resistance is futile," he declared.

Congressional sources said De Venecia "will force a vote" today to prevent the majority from breaking up.

De Venecia vowed to reach out to his "challenger" to preserve the ruling coalition comprised of the Lakas-CMD, the Nationalist People's Coalition, Liberal Party, Nacionalista Party, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino and Social Democrats.

A motion to declare all seats vacant in the House leadership filed before Congress adjourned last month will confront the 236-chamber when it resumes sessions today.

But there will be no fireworks on the floor as Pichay is poised to challenge for the Speaker's post in a majority caucus during which he will ask for a secret balloting.

He chided De Venecia for being "panicky," saying, "What he's fearful about are the reforms I'm pushing. De Venecia's biggest enemy is not I but his own self. This is a case of a victim of his own shadow."

FVR to GMA: Please explain surveillance

By Nikko Dizon
and Christine Avendaño

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL Ramos yesterday called on Malacañang to clarify reports he was involved in an alleged coup plot and, as a consequence, was under surveillance by government operatives.

Ramos showed no sign of belligerence or pique as he made the appeal. In fact, he kidded with reporters during a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) upon his arrival from Kaoshiung, Taiwan.

"What I would like best of all—and I can go home to sleep with my roommate Mrs. (Amelita) Ramos and enjoy my golden years—if the President herself makes the clarification," Ramos said.

"This is of course being requested, not demanded, respectfully of our President and Commander-in-Chief," he said.

Ramos said the President's clarification was important because "this is already involving the highest national interest." It would also help "people understand what the situation is and will also help her in moving on, especially in the economy," he said.

Malacañang responded with dispatch to Ramos' request.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday issued a statement branding as "malicious and false" the news report (not in the INQUIRER) that Ramos was under government surveillance.

She ordered an investigation of the report and the imposition of disciplinary action against "any rumor mongers in uniform."

"I direct the Armed Forces chief (Gen. Generoso Senga) and Philippine National Police chief (Gen. Arthur Lomibao) to investigate the source of these reports and mete out disciplinary action against any rumor mongers in uniform who are playing into the hands of destabilizers," she said.

Not content with the gesture, President Arroyo also heaped praise on Ramos, describing him as "a champion of the people and republic" and gave assurances she considered him a "staunch political ally."

"President Ramos is a staunch political ally and a leading partner of the administration for peace, security and development," she said in her statement.

"He is a soldier of unassailable ideals and a champion of the people and the Republic," the President added.

Even before Ramos' news conference at the airport, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reiterated on radio yesterday morning that the Palace still considered Ramos a loyal supporter of Ms Arroyo.

Bunye said Ramos was a senior adviser of the President, when asked about the latter's ties to the Palace.

Australia sees RP Senate hindering training pact

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIA SAID Sunday the Philippine Senate could pose an obstacle to a troop training agreement being negotiated between the two countries.

Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill said he expected details of a counterterrorism training agreement to be finalized with the Philippines by the end of 2005.

"Then it will need approval of the Philippine Senate, which might be quite challenging," Hill told Channel Nine .television here.

The two countries are negotiating a "status-of-forces" agreement similar to that currently in place between Manila and Washington, which overcomes constitutional constraints on foreign soldiers' participation in training exercises on Philippine soil.

Hill said Australia wanted to help Filipino forces contain Muslim extremists in the country's south.

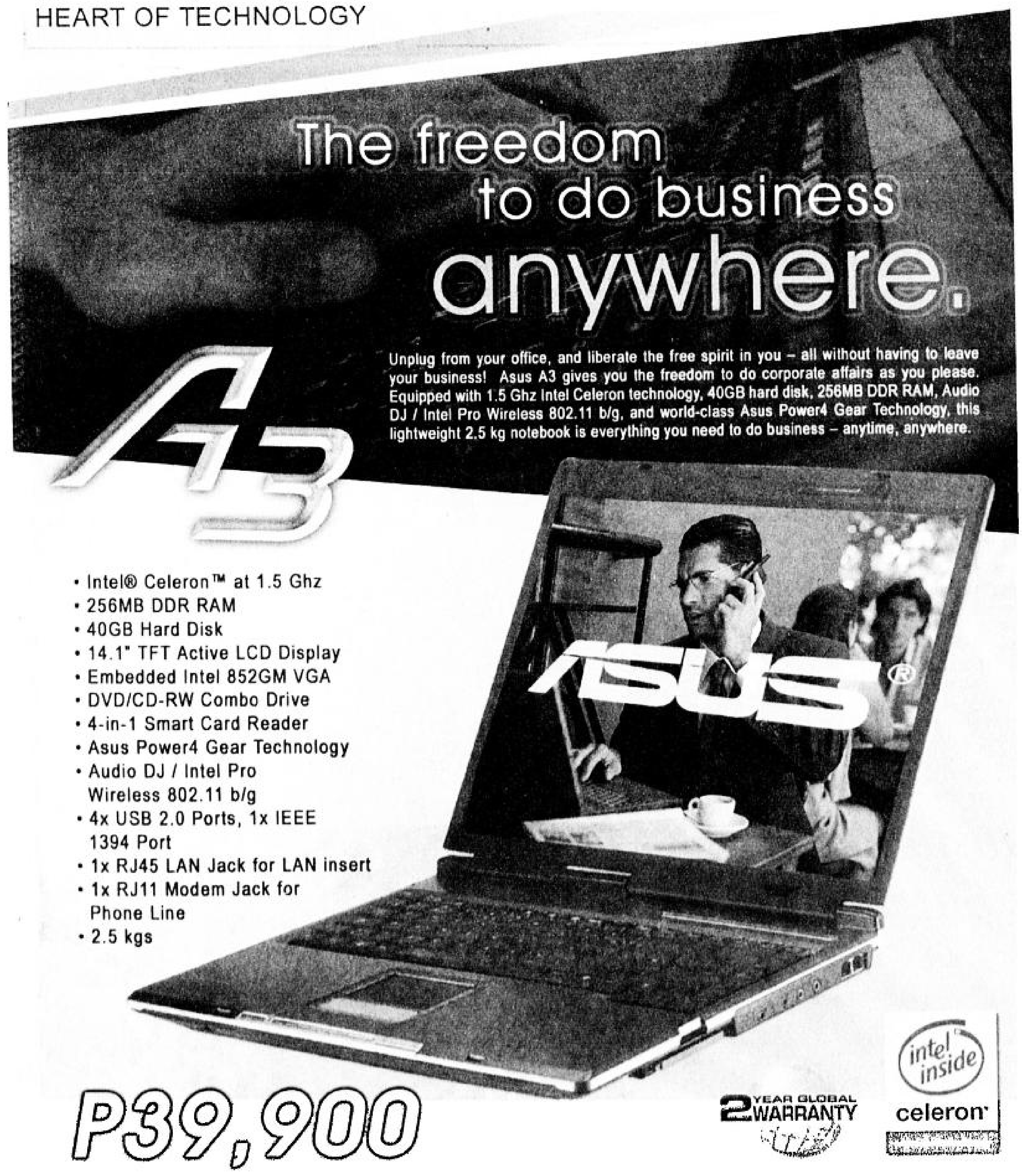
"We think it is in our interest to help the Philippines more effectively meet the threat of terrorism in Mindanao and other parts of southern Philippines because we believe that that is not only a threat to them but also a threat to us," he said.

One group of extremists, the Abu Sayyaf, allegedly has ties to the al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah terror networks. The JI admitted planting the bombs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 that killed scores of Australian tourists.

Hill said any agreement would impose clear limits on what Australian troops could do in the Philippines.

"I'm not suggesting military operations in the Philippines, I'm certainly suggesting we should be able to give them more support in training," he said.

Hill traveled to the Philippines to discuss the agreement last month, shortly after Australia's special forces commander Mike Hindmarsh made a low-key visit to Mindanao. *AFP*



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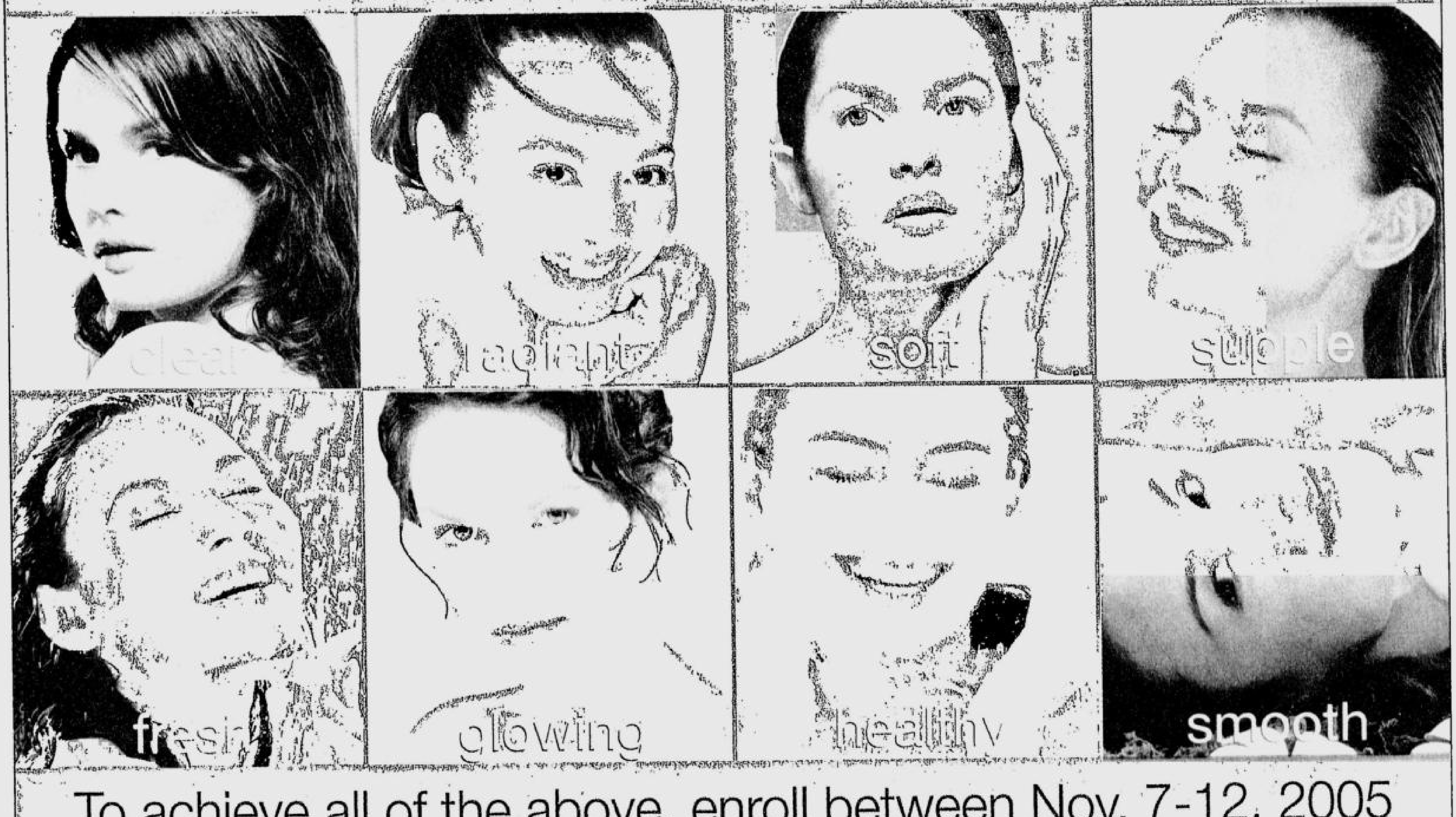

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TIMELINE OF ALLEGED SUBIC RAPE

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

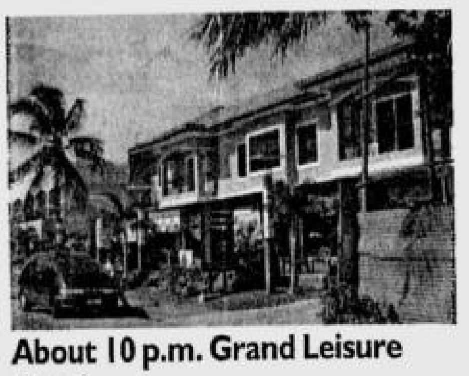
PHOTOS BY ANSBERT JOAQUIN

[Editor's Note: Timeline as narrated by Zambales Rep. Milagros Magsaysay based on interviews with the victim, her stepsister, the driver of the Starex van and eight witnesses]

NOV. 1

9 p.m.

The victim, her stepsister and the latter's boyfriend, Christopher James Mills, go to Neptune bar. Victim dances with US soldier surnamed Reynolds. This man is later mistakenly questioned as a suspect. (The driver fails to recognize him as one of the men who rode in the Starex van. Later, the US Marines' logbook shows Reynolds returning to the USS Essex at 9:30 p.m. Investigators find no reason to detain him).



About 10 p.m. Grand Leisure Hotel

Stepsister invites victim to return to Grand Leisure Hotel where they are staying. Hotel is less than a km north of Neptune. The victim prefers to stay longer at the bar and her stepsister leaves her there. Later, Mills volunteers to look for the victim but fails to find her.

10 p.m. Aresi Restaurant

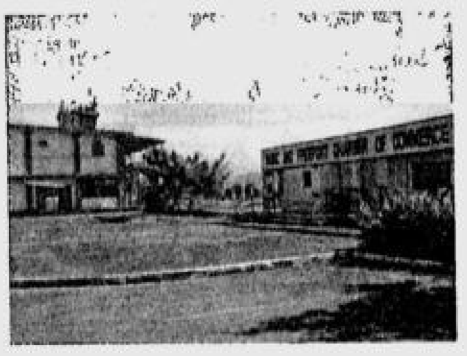
Driver and a US Marine surnamed Carpenter dine at Aresi Restaurant, less than 1 km north of Neptune. Four servicemen call to tell Carpenter and driver to go to Neptune. (Driver says he has been driving for three servicemen for a week. He identifies the two others as Smith and Boris).

10:30 p.m. Neptune with Dewey Avenue street post

The group gathers at Neptune. Soldiers order driver to go inside the bar. He is given a bottle of beer. About 15 to 20 minutes later, driver is told to prepare the van as they are leaving. The five men and the victim ride the van. Driver says he is not sure if victim is lucid at this point. Driver is instructed to go around Dewey Avenue.

As van travels this route, Carpenter shouts: "Go, go, Smith." The three men take turns shouting "F**k! F**k!" The three men stand on their knees, their backs to the driver. Driver says the group did not take turns raping the victim. Driver tries to switch on the light inside the van. Carpenter stops him. Carpenter instead turns up the radio louder. The incident takes 10 to 20 minutes.

The Starex van stops somewhere along Alava Pier and there unloads the girl. Driver says victim's pants lowered to her knees.



11:15 p.m. Subic Telecom-Subic Chamber of Commerce offices

Eight people are at the Alava Pier, between the Subic Telecom and Subic Chamber of Commerce offices, to watch US soldiers return to the ship (this is a practice by locals during the years when the US Navy was still at Subic until 1992). They say a Starex van pulled over and a black man alighted and sat on the pavement. Two Caucasians emerge later carrying the victim, by her hands and feet, as if she were a pig ("parang baboy"). The victim has her shirt and underwear on. Another Caucasian emerges from the van, throws away the remaining beer in a bottle. He rolls the bottle in the direction of the victim. He gets in the van and throws a pair of pants the victim's way.

The eight witnesses get near the victim. They say she looks "groggy." A condom is hanging from her underwear while a trip ticket falls on the pavement. The ticket belongs to Star Ways Tours and Travel owned by one George Day at Clark. Witnesses call an SBMA mobile patrol to report a "possible rape." They fetch victim's stepsister at the hotel.

NOV. 2

2 a.m.

Victim is taken to James Gordon Hospital in Olongapo City, just outside the freeport, for a medico-legal test. The last thing she remembers is she felt dizzy at Neptune.

"Liberty" or recreation time for US troops ends.

6 a.m.

The search for suspects ends after they are presented in a lineup before the van driver.

9 a.m. Alava Pier

USS Essex leaves Alava Pier.

11 a.m. LED office

US Naval Intelligence Service (NIS) begins investigation, gets statements from victim, driver and eight witnesses at the SBMA's law enforcement department (LED).

Victim tells investigators that the last thing she remembers is she felt dizzy at Neptune bar.

NOV. 3

US NIS presents five suspects to SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga and Administrator Armand Arreza.

2:30 p.m.

A complaint for rape is filed against the suspects before the Olongapo City prosecutor's office.

Rape victim's family bent on pursuing case

From page A1

ment on the incident. The identity of the victim has been withheld.

Reacting to the report, a lawyer at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said: "The claim of the driver that he was asked to sign a blank document should be refuted by the fiscal. His affidavit was sworn before the fiscal."

"We have witnesses to support the case," said Carlitos Cruz, a lawyer of the SBMA.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday told the INQUIRER that he had ordered the city prosecutor of Olongapo to conduct a preliminary investigation of the case and that this had been scheduled for today.

Gonzalez said he had also directed the prosecutor to summon the Americans implicated in the case to appear during the investigation to be based on the police complaint filed on Friday.

Because of the long weekend, he said he could not confirm if the summons had been served. However, he added that the investigation could proceed even without the Americans, who had participated in RP-US counterterrorism exercises that ended last week.

Case to be raffled off

SBMA officials said Olongapo prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni would raffle off the case to a court after the inquest.

Initial reports, mainly accounts by SBMA officials, said that the alleged rape occurred on the night of Nov. 1.

The woman, described as a 22-year-old college graduate and daughter of an Army soldier from Zamboanga City, had gone on a visit to the freeport to accompany a stepsister who was to meet her boyfriend.

As they went bar-hopping, the victim was later driven away in a van, raped and found near the waterfront. When found, she was intoxicated and almost naked, SBMA officials said.

She later executed a complaint, reportedly corroborated by the driver and other witnesses.

The US Embassy yesterday repeated earlier statements it would cooperate with the investigation to ensure that justice would be served.

"They're now under the responsibility of the US Embassy. We are keeping an eye on them, and will make them available to Philippine investigators," embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Asked what assurances the embassy could give, Lussenhop replied that the VFA "provides the framework that justice is done. We are committed to following that framework."

5 or 6 Marines?

He declined to comment on reports that the driver of the Starex van used by the group would "contest" what had been presented as his sworn statement on the incident, explaining that the "investigation is still ongoing."

Asked whether five or six US Marines were involved, Lussenhop said that there had been "confusion" regarding this.

"Initially, there were six Marines who stayed behind either as a material witness or a suspect, then it became five involved. But there were six Marines who stayed behind," he said. "We'll know when the final charges are filed."

Even before a formal investigation, the case has already sparked a political firestorm as senators, congressmen and leftwing groups issued statements denouncing the alleged rape and calling for the rescinding of the controversial Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States, which the Philippine Senate ratified in 1999.

Malacañang yesterday asked critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo not to make a political issue out of the case.

"With due respect to the victim and to the criminal justice system, we ask the President's critics not to use this tragic incident as a springboard for political grandstanding," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"Let justice take its course, unerringly and undeterred by political color."

'Isolated incident'

Bunye said the victim was under the care of the social welfare department and that she was being assisted by the VFA Commission and the Departments of Justice and Defense.

Asked whether the government was considering canceling the VFA, he said the alleged rape case was an "isolated incident." He said this was the first case since the agreement was signed.

"But what we want to stress that is important here is justice. Justice for the victim will be obtained," Bunye said.

Magsaysay denied reports that she was keeping the victim and the mother in her custody. Neither was she trying to influence their decisions, she added.

"I helped out to ensure that proper procedures were followed from the making of the sworn statements, to identifying and holding the suspects and to the filing of the case," she said.

Everything that she did, she said, was in her capacity as a representative of Zambales.

The victim, she said, "broke down in tears as she tried to recall what happened to her on the night of Nov. 1.

Cruz, the SBMA lawyer, corrected some details in the INQUIRER report on Sunday.

He said the soldiers threatened the driver, not the victim, to open the van. The van, he clarified, stopped at Alava Pier, not at Pier I (which was at the other end of Waterfront Road).

Also, the driver did not claim in his statement that he heard the woman calling for help.

But Cruz said "definitely, we have a prima facie case here."

"How can someone who was seduced into drinking give her consent [to be abused]?" he asked.

No whitewash demanded

Members of the party-list group Gabriela met with SBMA officials on Saturday to get an assurance that the case would not be whitewashed.

Lana Linaban, Gabriela deputy secretary general, said her group had received information that the government was planning to "settle" the case against the American soldiers.

"Aside from settlement of the case, the government might be doing other moves to prevent the rape case from proceeding," Linaban said.

She said SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza told them that the SBMA was extending legal and accommodation assistance to the victim.

"Arreza assured us that the woman is in safe hands. He is closely monitoring the condition of the victim," Linaban said.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, expressed concern over the possible conflict of jurisdiction between the Philippines and the United States over the case.

"We will try our best to maintain our good and cordial relations with the United States. We should not take steps that would destroy the good relation but we would also make sure that the interest of the Philippines should prevail," Cuenco said.

Sex terrorists

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday took issue with the US custody of the six US Marines.

"The Filipino public must look at the case of the American sex terrorists less from what the Philippine government can do because of the plain and simple reality that the sextet is in US custody. Rather, we must stress and expose the US failure to take the moral high ground," Arroyo said in a statement.

"The ball is in the US court, not the Philippines," he said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Nikko Dizon, Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christian V. Esguerra, DJ Yap and Luige A. del Puerto in Manila; Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

IN THE KNOW

A case of rape

A RAPE VICTIM MAY FILE AN INITIAL complaint or affidavit even without a lawyer, so long as it is sworn to before anyone authorized to administer an oath (a police officer, prosecutor, notary public or judge).

Upon receipt of the affidavits of the victim and witnesses as well as medico-legal findings, the police should immediately endorse the complaint to a prosecutor, who will then conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if there is prima facie evidence that rape has been committed.

In the course of the investigation, the police may only invite the suspects for questioning. On the other hand, the prosecutor has the power to subpoena the respondents to aid in the probe.

If the prosecutor states in his resolution there is probable cause that rape has been committed, he will prepare the information (formal charge) which will then be submitted to the court.

According to lawyer Ging Ursua, only a prosecutor or the rape victim's guardian has the authority to withhold the victim's sworn statement. Retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority vice president for operations and chief of the SBMA's intelligence and investigation division, has been accused of restricting information regarding the recent rape case.

Ursua says the complaint, instead of being withheld, should be endorsed automatically to the justice department for investigation. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

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Legarda removes some areas from poll protest

By Cynthia D. Balana

IS FORMER SEN. Loren Legarda backing down from her election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro?

De Castro thinks so after Legarda asked the Supreme Court to allow her to exclude 21 municipalities in Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur from her election protest for "financial reasons and lack of evidence."

De Castro claimed the withdrawal of these provinces from her protest was prejudicial to him since it would deprive him of the chance to clear his name after Legarda accused him of cheating in Mindanao.

He said it showed Legarda's lack of respect for him as well as the high court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET).

The PET has scheduled the recount of votes for Lanao del Sur on Nov. 10.

"This only proves what I have been saying from the start—her protest has absolutely no basis and the initial retabulation of the votes in the Mindanao provinces will prove it. Her claims are mostly unfounded and that is the reason she is withdrawing her protest," De Castro said.

Legarda, however, laughed off De Castro's claim, saying the motion she filed before the PET last Thursday was actually meant to expedite her protest.

"No way. Not in his wildest dreams. That is wishful thinking on his part," Legarda said.

"De Castro and his camp are resorting to squid tactics to muddle the issue and are diverting public attention. He should make another script," she said.

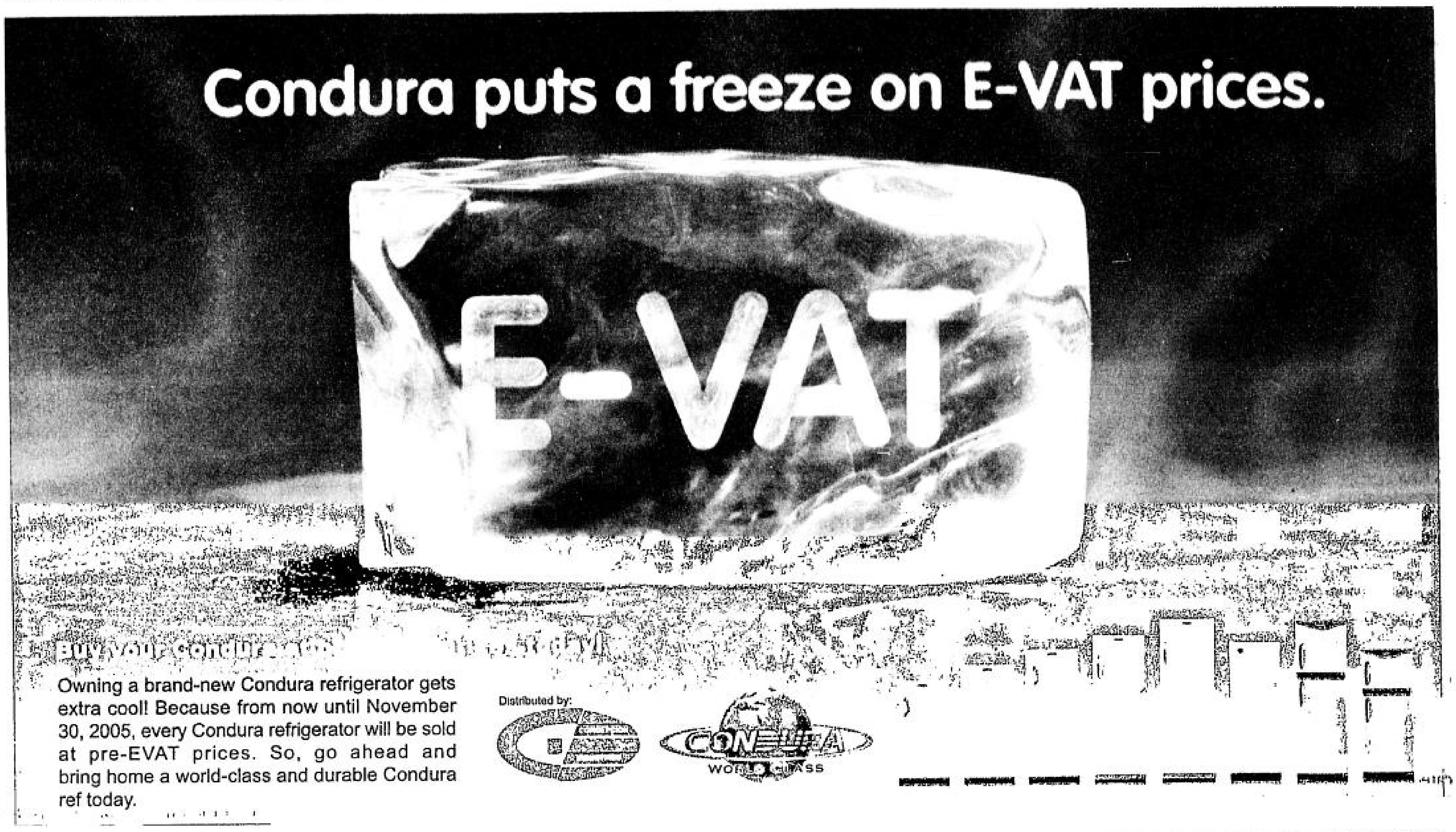
Legarda said she filed the motion so she could use her cash deposits for the two provinces for the recount of votes in Cebu where De Castro won by almost 900,000 votes. She paid P500 for every precinct covered by the protest.

"We believe that we should immediately focus on Cebu since the votes in that province are more than enough to overturn De Castro's 880,000 alleged lead over me nationwide once we prove our claim that he cheated. That is why we decided to waive it to proceed to Cebu," she said.

Besides, she said, some of the ballot boxes of Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur which were in the custody of the House were missing.

Legarda said it was also in Cebu where the provincial election official reported missing padlocks and ballot boxes to the PET.

THEY MAKE THEIR BOSSES LOOK GOOD, OR BAD. The public relations officers (PROs) of the senators of the Republic face the cameras for a change after Senate President Franklin Drilon (seated, center) inducted their group's officers recently. As is normal with PR persons, they shall remain nameless. JESS YUSON



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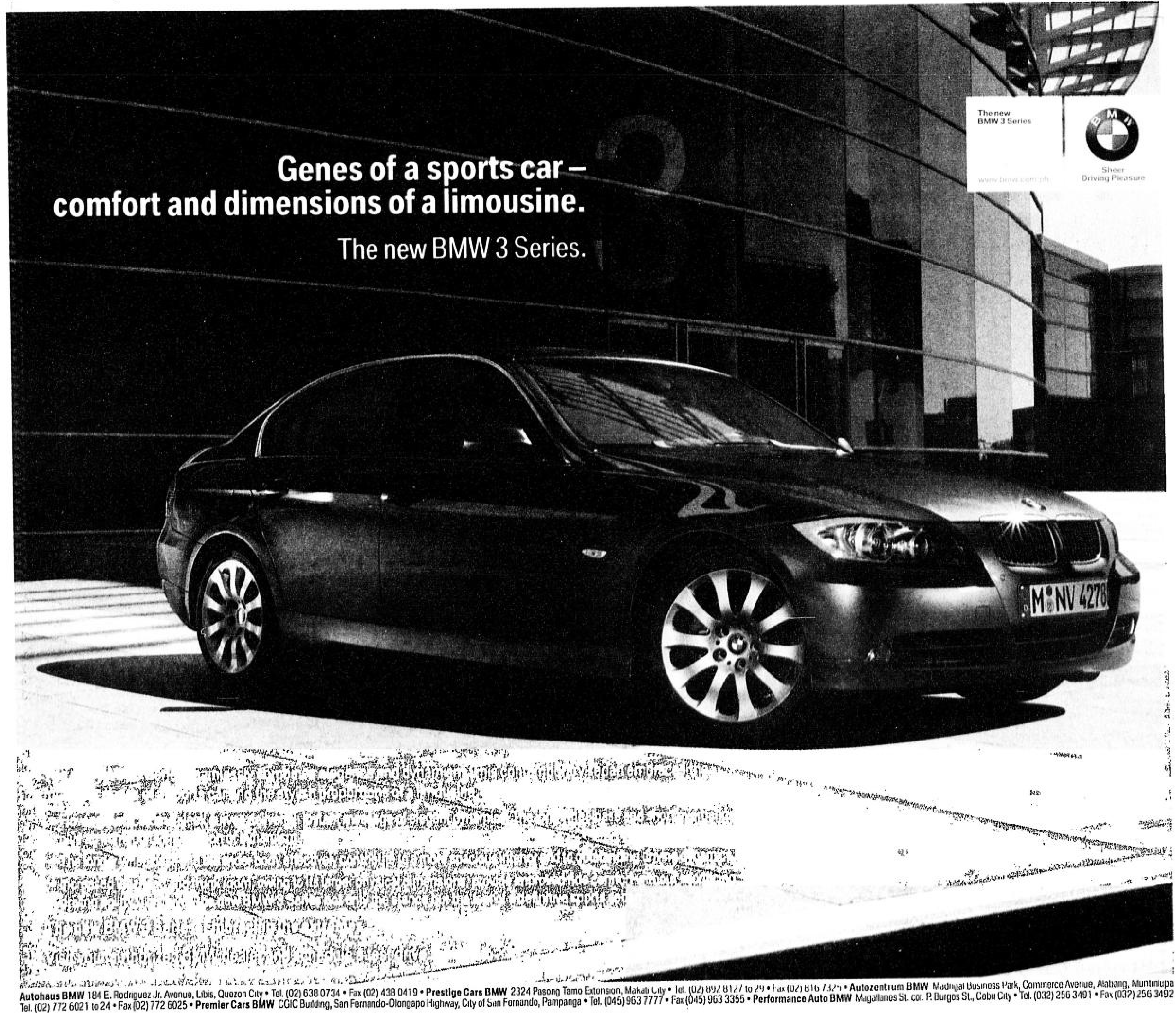

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One-armed suspect not Abu leader

From page A1

Gara was alone when arrested outside his house in Barangay Kitabog, Titay town, in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Like the elusive bandit leader, Gara has only one arm.

This reporter had known Radulan Sahiron since 1992 and interviewed him several times since then.

But it was not Sahiron this reporter saw when the man was presented to Lomibao.

The man spoke fluent Tagalog, Bisaya and two local dialects. The real Sahiron is fluent in Arabic and Tausog.

Like the real Sahiron, the man had "Chinese" eyes and their height was almost the same, 5'4".

But there was one major glitch. The real Sahiron had had his right arm amputated. The man brought to Lomibao did not have his left arm.

Photo in cell phone

The supposed long arm of the law turned out to be shorter than the stump where once had been Sahiron's right arm.

Gara was wearing a T-shirt and a pair of shorts when brought before Lomibao in a hotel room in Dipolog. He had a paunch and was described by residents as a cockfight aficionado.

Police also used a photo of Sahiron stored in the cell phone of an officer to compare the man they had captured with the dreaded chief of staff of the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

The blunder was the latest of a number of mistaken announcements made by the Arroyo administration since 1992 involving crime operations *(See related story on Page A4.)*

A 2-year operation

The PNP chief for intelligence, Director Simeon Dizon, who was with Lomibao, said he had his doubts about Gara because Sahiron's known whereabouts were limited to the Sulu-Basilan and Tawi-Tawi areas.

Lomibao said police had conducted a "legitimate" operation which involved trusting information relayed by a former intelligence officer "who has delivered in the past."

It was a two-year operation that had the blessings of the presidential task force on antiterrorism headed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

The "assets" used were former military intelligence agents in Zamboanga Sibugay.

'We are sorry'

"We apologize for the unintentional lapse," Lomibao said in his statement.

He said it was only "right to correct that mistake and bring back to his family the person invited for questioning ... We assure everyone that his rights were not violated."

Lomibao also said: "Hardworking intelligence operatives spent days and nights on one specific target ... We got one all right, but only a look-alike."

The PNP chief said that in the long, tedious fight against terrorism "there are hits and misses ... This incident [is] a constant reminder that the enemy is still out there."

He added: "The incident highlights key important elements in the government's fight against terrorism. One, the war on terror is personal and passionate. Two, the war on terror is continuing and sustained," the statement said.

"Your government is waging a war that needs all these ingredients and we assure every Filipino that your government is utilizing all its assets to cripple the enemy.

"We acknowledge this incident as a constant reminder that the enemy is still out there."

How GMA got it wrong

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said despite the snafu, the police "batting average" would show "that the police have not been remiss in their duty."

Asked how Ms Arroyo got the wrong information, Bataoil said the field officers reported the arrest to Lomibao, who in turn reported it to Ms Arroyo.

"The information was relayed by our operatives in the field, with Senior Supt. Rodolfo (Boogie) Mendoza informing the chief PNP. The chief PNP informed the President about the development in this operation."

Malacañang left to police officials the burden of explaining the bungled announcement of Sahiron's capture.

Won't be deterred

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye only said the development was a "setback" to the government's fight against terrorism.

Bunye said Lomibao's statement that the police had not captured Sahiron was "self-explanatory."

"This setback will not deter us from vigorously pursuing the fight against terrorism," Bunye said.

The blunder caused Bunye to pull out a statement issued yesterday, saying that Ms Arroyo hailed the operation against Sahiron.

As early as Saturday, after Ms Arroyo had announced Sahiron's supposed arrest, many people in Zamboanga were expressing doubts.

A diabetic, old man

Jolo Councilor Cocoy Tulawie said he could not believe it that Sahiron had been captured in Zamboanga Sibugay.

"He is very old, more than 60 years old and suffering from diabetes. If there's a report that he escaped out of Sulu, that's real news here. Besides, physically, he is no longer capable to declare jihad (holy war)," Tulawie said.

Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade based in Sulu, also said Saturday that he had not received any reports that Sahiron had even left Sulu. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala, and Dennis Baguio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Luige A. del Puerto and Christine O. Avendaño*

GMA blunders on crime busts

THE ERRONEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT that notorious Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron had fallen was the latest of a series of Malacañang gaffes.

- **July 26, 2002:** President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in Sarangani that suspected kidnap leader Faizal Marohombsar had been arrested. Minutes later, she withdrew her statement, saying she was fed wrong information.

A month later, Marohombsar was killed in a shootout with security forces.

- **July 28, 2002.** Media men were called to a press conference where senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was supposed to be presented. The press conference did not push through. It turned out that Hapilon had not been captured. He is still at large.
- **Aug. 2, 2002.** Ms Arroyo visited the NBI offices and presented Acsa Ramirez, a cashier of the Land Bank of the Philippines Binangonan branch, as a suspect in a P203-million tax diversion scam involving officials of the government bank. Ramirez, it turned out, was the one who exposed the scam. She got an apology from Ms Arroyo a year later.
- **Oct. 17, 2002.** Police arrested 21-year-old Mark Bolkerin Gumbahale, an alleged leader of the Abu Sayyaf. "He's one of the top eight Abu Sayyaf leaders with a P5 million price for his capture," Ms Arroyo said at a press briefing.

Five days later, then national police Director General Ebdane apologized for the misidentification. Gumbalahe was not an ASG leader but simply a member. *Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research*

Suspect belies ABS-CBN claim

By Christine O. Avendaño

SUSPECTED TERRORIST TYrone "Dawud" Santos accused ABS-CBN of "using" him when he was interviewed by Vice President Noli de Castro on dzMM radio Saturday.

He said it was ABS-CBN that called him up for the interview, contrary to the broadcasting firm's claim that he had voluntarily contacted it.

Santos said he was surprised that ABS-CBN merely reported his clarification that its broadcaster, Julius Babao, had not bailed him out of prison as charged by the military.

Santos said Babao indeed did not post his bail, as it was his wife and relatives "through the help of imams" who helped raise the amount for his bail.

He said he had ceased talking to ABS-CBN reporters since yesterday afternoon because of the firm's broadcasts in which he was being pictured as the one who rented the Quezon City house where bombs were found by the police.

"Julius knows the real situation. I don't have the money to rent such a place," Santos said.

He said he did not ask for financial assistance from ABS-CBN and that the network did not offer him any.

Santos said he earned his living from teaching karate and from farming the land owned by his family.

"I went out into the open. I hope he will also do the same for me," Santos said of Babao.

Terror suspect ...

From page A1

underground" right after his release from military custody on April 26, but chose not to for fear it would place his bail guarantor, ABS-CBN broadcaster Julius Babao, in hot water.

Santos maintained he had been leading a quiet life as a farmer and charcoal-maker on the family farm in Anda, Pangasinan.

He said he had been going out only to attend the hearings of the regional trial courts in Pangasinan and Tarlac where he faces charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

The quiet life he attempted to lead was shattered last week when President Macapagal-Arroyo, citing an intelligence report, said Babao helped Santos post bail in April. Babao and the ABS-CBN have denied the report.

Santos said Babao did not post the bail, but acted as a "reference" with a surety company. "I am very thankful to Sir Julius for this help. The company does not know me, but they know him," he said.

'Who will belive me?'

"I wanted to give my side, but in my position, who will believe me? I am already a marked terrorist," Santos, 32, told the INQUIRER late Saturday. He spoke in Filipino throughout the interview.

He said he attended a hearing at the Tarlac court on Nov. 3, when he heard the news that he had "disappeared" and was planning to launch bomb attacks in Metro Manila.

He arrived in Pangasinan just barely eluding a group of journalists with police escorts. At dawn of Friday, four plainclothesmen started "casing" his house. By daybreak, Santos said no less than the chief of police had visited his neighbors.

Santos said he had to ask the barangay chair to "inspect" the perimeter. "They might have planted bombs and firearms again," he said.

Karma

Accompanied by his two wives and two children, Santos motored to Manila on Saturday ready to face the rebellion case. "I will face my accusers in court. There is karma, after all," he said.

Santos has three wives and 10 children, aged 2 to 14.

A former martial arts instructor, antidrugs advocate, hotel detective and overseas worker, Santos was identified by the police and military as the deputy chief of the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), a group of Muslim converts allegedly tied to the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

A government report also identified his older brother, former overseas worker Hilarion del Rosario Santos III, as the founder and leader of the RSM. The older Santos was arrested in Zamboanga last month.

Baffled

How the brothers ended up on the wrong side of the law has baffled their relatives, including a cousin who was a Marcos presidential guard, Santos said.

He said his grandfather, Hilarion Santos, was a Constabulary man and an expert in the art of *arnis*. His father, Hilarion Jr., was a martial arts expert who taught at the YMCA for years. Thus, all the three Santos boys—Hilarion, Tyrone and Cyrus—grew up to be blackbelters and skilled in the use of guns.

He said he and his brothers were all raised Roman Catholic, but in the early 1990s, Hilarion went to work in the Middle East and embraced Islam. Back in the Philippines in 1993, Hilarion and his two brothers set up the Santos Martial Arts Club in Caloocan City.

By 1994, Santos said he also embraced Islam and became "active" in 1998 after working in Saudi Arabia. His younger brother Cyrus also became a Muslim convert.

A high school graduate of the Republican College in Cubao, Santos said he made a living mainly as a martial arts instructor. He taught karatedo at the University of the Philippines Karate Association from 1994 to 1995, even while he was training policemen, barangay tanod and security guards on martial arts.

Mandarin Hotel

He worked as a hotel detective at the Mandarin Hotel for a month before leaving for the Middle East in 1998. Santos claimed he was active with the Citizens Drug Watch in the 1990s.

A police intelligence official said Hilarion founded the Anda Muslim community when he built a mosque on the Santos farm in 2000.

Santos acknowledged he would meet the other supposed "terror suspects" and their families at the mosque. The mother of SuperFerry bombing suspect Cain Dellosa was a teacher in Arabic at the madrasa that Hilarion had built.

Life was good until 9/11

Life was good to them, it would seem, until the Sept. 11, 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington by suicide bombers of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

In November that year, Santos said a joint police and military team raided the family farm in Anda on suspicion that it was a training ground for Muslim terrorists. But no case was filed and the firearms confiscated from the farm were returned because these were licensed, he said.

Five months later, the raiding team returned and found assorted guns, explosives, bombs, etc. "Everything was planted, and they even included our bolos, saws among the evidence," Santos said.

He admitted he and his brother owned a shotgun and three handguns. "These were all licensed," he said.

Santos said a joint police and military team again raided the farm in May, 2002, and charged him and five others with illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Recurring suspects

A follow-up raid in Tarlac yielded more explosives for which he and several others were charged with illegal possession of explosives. Their names—the Santoses and other Muslim converts from the Anda Muslim community—would recur as suspects in succeeding plots allegedly hatched by Islamic radicals.

In March, lawmen raided the Santos house in Cubao, Quezon City. "He was abducted," his wife Jamilla said.

A follow-up raid on a townhouse in Fairview, also in Quezon City, yielded a sackful of explosives, allegedly belonging to Santos.

"My family lives in a shanty in Cubao, and I was renting a townhouse in Fairview? I've never been to that house," Santos said. To date, he has not been charged for the Fairview raid.

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Pols urged to look into youth issues

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—"PLEASE JUST DON'T THINK of being rich, of earning money. Think of the children, think of how you can help them."

This was the plea of 17-year-old Giselle Estacio, a freshman college student here, to politicians and government officials.

Estacio said she and her classmates always discussed the goings-on in the government today. What they realized was that in the discussions, little touched on children's issues.

In the first national assembly and consultation of the Kabataan News Network (KNN) in this city on Friday, Estacio and other teenagers said Filipino children were faced with problems of violence, sexual abuse, maltreatment, trafficking and neglect but the government rarely came to their aid.

KNN is a news program produced by children and supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and Probe Media Foundation.

Dale Rutstein, Unicef Philippines communications officer, said they were interviewing children in various countries to document the abuse and violence that they experienced.

Rutstein said the results of these consultations would be turned into a global report to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan next year.

He said the UN commissioned the study on violence against children after a recent landmark report on kids caught in war and other conflicts became a major human rights issue.

"After that, there was a recognition that violence against and the exploitation of children were not diminishing but increasing," he said.

Rutstein said the study on violence against children is a "global participatory study, not a UN study where a few international bureaucrats get together and sit in a room, looking at new projects and write a technical report."

Simultaneously with the KNN assembly, youths representing the different regions of the Philippines attended a national convention on violence against children here on Friday.

"The right of children to participate has come a long way ... all countries are doing what we are doing right now. They are consulting children, this is tremendously a new kind of UN process, it is whole new level of participation," Rutstein said.

A recent Department of Health report cited by Unicef showed that of 2,704 Filipino adolescent respondents, 86 percent claimed to have been the object of psychological and sexual abuse, violence or neglect at least once in their lifetime.

"As a child, 60 percent reported to be psychologically traumatized, 83 percent were physically maltreated, 12 percent were sexually molested, 2 percent were forced to have sex and 5 percent felt neglected in terms of basic needs," the study showed.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 7, 2005
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wis 1:1-7
Gospel: Luke 17:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Scandals will necessarily come and cause people to fall; but woe to the one who has brought it about. It would be better for that one to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around the neck. Truly this would be better for that person than to cause one of these little ones to fall.

"Be careful. If your brother offends you, rebuke him and if he is sorry, forgive him. And if he offends you seven times in a day but says to you seven times: 'I'm sorry,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Commentary

Jesus is realistic: scandals come in the world and the Church because people fail and others will fall because of them. But woe to those who brings about the fall of others because of their words and deeds, or inactions. But, still we must forgive—and forgive, ceaselessly, without fail, walking a thin line between condemning what has been done yet leaving the judgment of the person to God. And they pray for an increase in faith. How deep and great is our faith—like that of a mustard seed (nearly the smallest seed of all)? If so we could uproot trees and replant them in the sea! Lord, increase our faith! Help us to forgive and forgive! Make us realistic, both seeing the truth of failure and sin, yet not being drawn into it or despairing because of others' actions. Water that seed within us, O God. Amen.

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15,000 cops to make sure SEA Games secure

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE has formed a super task force to secure the 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) that opens on Nov. 22.

Some 15,000 policemen would be deployed to secure the sites of the games which are expected to draw 7,000 athletes and officials from all over the Southeast Asian region, the PNP said.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao formed Task Force SEA Games for the undertaking and placed his deputy chief for operations, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., in charge.

The task force would have at its disposal about 15,000 policemen from five regional commands, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said.

"We don't want to sound alarmist but we are looking at all possible threats including terrorism. We don't want to let our guard down," Bataoil said Saturday.

Manila last hosted the biennial games in 1991.

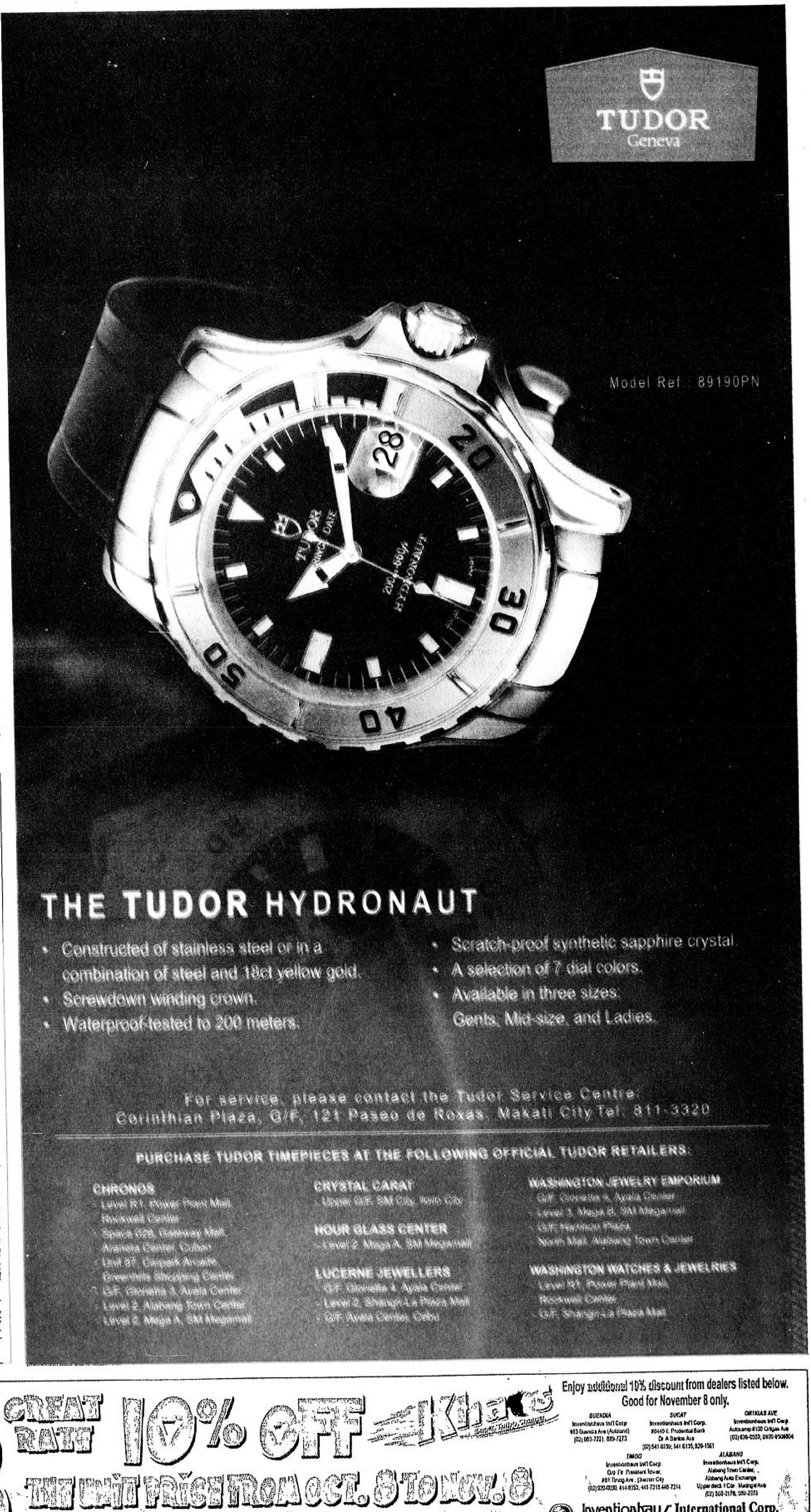
The SEA Games will feature 53 events to be held in 41 venues, mainly in Metro Manila. The other game sites are in Central Luzon (Region III), Southern Tagalog (Region IV-A) and Western Visayas (Region VI).

As Task Force SEA Games commander, Razon will coordinate, direct and supervise all security operations related to the games.

Under him are five task groups from the five regions: Task Group National Capital Region Police Office, Task Group Region IV-A Police Office, Task Group Region III Police Office, Task Group Region VI Police Office and Task Group Police Region VII Office.

The task groups will cover not only security but crowd disturbance and traffic management as well, and other contingency measures that may arise.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan



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Environmentalists tell Enrile: Let Samar be

ENRILE PDI PHOTO

From page A1

moratorium on the island, considered one of the world's 200 eco-regions for its rich biodiversity and threatened critical water sources.

Samar has the largest remaining contiguous lowland forests in the country and is home to at least 197 bird species, including 16 highly threatened species, such as the Philippine Eagle and the Philippine Cockatoo.

Pastoral letters

The dioceses of Western and Northern Samar are preparing pastoral letters against the resumption of logging to be read during Mass in all Catholic churches in the two provinces.

Last week, the Diocese of Borongan in Eastern Samar issued a pastoral letter condemning the resumption of logging and urging the people to oppose the entry of Enrile's firm in the nature park.

The Samar Island Biodiversity Foundation (SIBF), a consortium of about 60 nongovernment organizations, has also vowed to exhaust all administrative and legal means to stop logging.

Petition

The SIBF is preparing a petition to Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor to reconsider the controversial order, which was released two months after the Commission on Appointments, of which Enrile is a member, confirmed Defensor's appointment to the DENR.

The Regional Development Council of Eastern Visayas has also passed around for signature among private sector representatives a petition asking Malacañang to rescind Defensor's order.

Sources said one of the three provincial governments, as well as the municipal government of Las Navas, where logging operations threaten a P2.4-billion irrigation project, were preparing a resolution blocking the resumption of logging.

Dictatorship

"Enrile's current supposed right is based on an extension given to SJTC in 1982, when Enrile was one of the pillars of the Marcos dictatorship, being defense minister. That kind of right was given at the end of the barrel of a gun. Who would be there to oppose him at that time?" Mabulay said.

He said this right was "resuscitated by an environment secretary whose confirmation Enrile had lawyered for as a member of the CA" in June.

Enrile bolted the opposition in April to turn "independent." But on Aug. 24—eight days after Defensor signed the order allowing SJTC to log in a protected area despite a nationwide log ban—Enrile agreed to a "working relationship" with the administration.

The DENR issued a logging moratorium in Samar from February to May 1989 to pave the way for an inventory of the island's remaining forests.

The moratorium was not lifted by subsequent environment secretaries, who worked for the proclamation of a large part of the island as a forest reserve in 1996 and as a nature park in 2003.

Selective logging

Enrile assured the public that his firm would harvest trees selectively. "They should see how we do logging operations without destroying the forests," he said.

Mabulay said Enrile's claim that he could do logging without hurting the forests was a "big fat lie."

"He has had the chance to show this in the 1970s and the 1980s, but all we got were the floods of 1989. [The floods killed hundreds of people.] Does he really want us to believe that his friends in the DENR, like Defensor, will really regulate his operations?" Mabulay asked.

But Western Samar Rep. Catalino Figueroa said SJTC was expected to put up measures to ensure its logging activity would not result in environmental degradation. The company is required, among other things, to plant 10 trees for every tree it cuts down, he said.

"Do we prefer that illegitimate or illegal loggers do the cutting of the trees with the government gaining nothing?" he asked.

Figueroa said he favorably endorsed the resumption of logging in his province as it would help not only his province but also the entire country.

"These logs will not only be sold within country but will be exported as well. Just imagine the (economic) benefit it will provide us all," he said.

Trees planted by SJTC

"As far as I know, these are select and mature trees planted by the company before its license was withdrawn," the congressman said.

Figueroa said he would ask all mayors in Samar to support the resumption of logging in the province.

"This fear of flooding, as claimed by those who oppose the resumption of the logging activity, is just an (imagined) fear," he said.

Figueroa maintained that the decision of the government for SJTC to resume its logging activity was not borne out of "political motivations."

"It was a legitimate decision. (SJTC's) license was cancelled because (Enrile) was accused by former President (Corazon) Aquino of leading a coup d'etat against her government," he said.

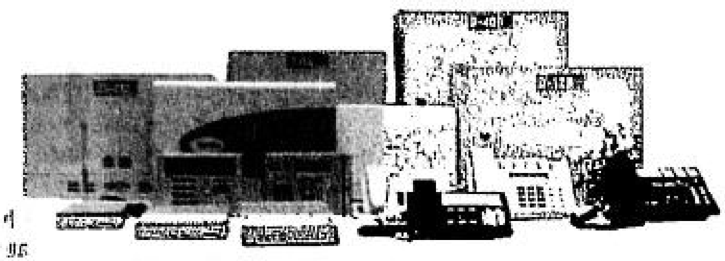
2 other logging firms

Mabulay said the permit given to SJTC would become a precedent for two other logging firms, whose TLA areas also fall within the protected park, and allow them to seek similar logging permits despite the log ban.

Pava Logging Co. Inc. has a TLA area of 31,075 hectares, while Basey Wood Industry Inc. covered 57,525 ha. Both firms stopped operations due to the 1989 moratorium.

Pava's TLA would not expire until 2007, while Basey should have expired in 1995 or six years into the moratorium period.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya also assailed the DENR order as "highly illegal, immoral and grossly antinational and antipeople."



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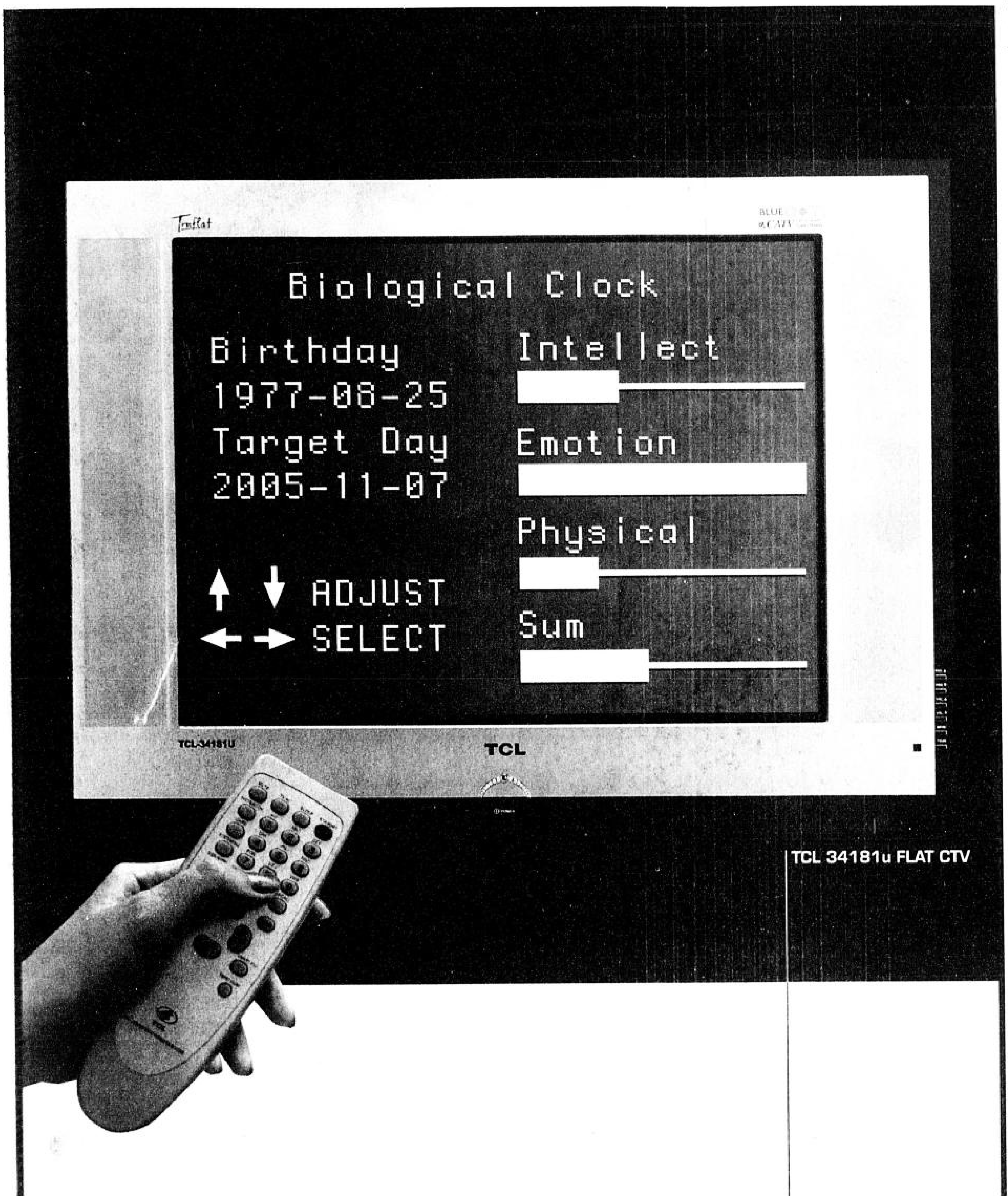

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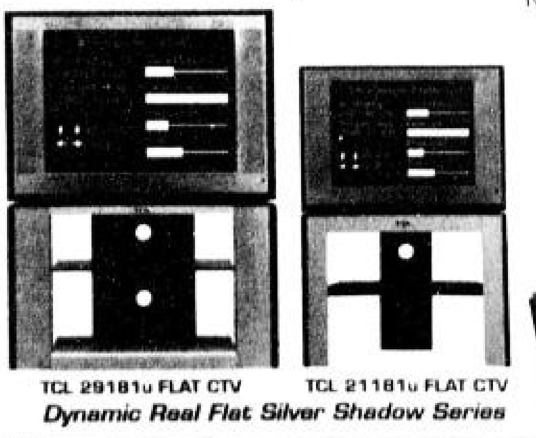

US fails to sell free trade in summit

MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush and one of his fiercest critics in the Americas, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, both have claimed victory on the divisive issue of regional free trade.

In a battle of ideologies played out at the 34-nation Summit of the Americas, Bush's capitalist, free-trade agenda was countered by Chavez's brand of "21st-century socialism."

And while Chavez did not succeed in "burying" a US-led plan for a free trade area from Canada to Chile, five countries including Venezuela successfully did block Bush's push to set a date to resume negotiations on the deal.

"Today the big loser was Mr. Bush," Chavez declared after the summit ended, praising the summit and dubbing the five countries "the five musketeers."

"We have never had such an intense, frank and profound debate in the past seven years," he said.

The 34 member nations signed a final declaration with 29 nations prepared to resume talks in 2006 and five, including Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, flat-out opposed to the deal.

"Necessary conditions are not yet present to reach an equitable and balanced hemispheric free trade accord, free of subsidies and distorting trade practices ... and taking into account the needs and sensibilities of all members," a text of the annex read.

Members agreed to "explore both positions" following the next round of World Trade Organization talks in Hong Kong in December, possibly at a trade minister-level meeting in Colombia. No firm date was given.

The United States nonetheless insisted the summit had made "real progress" toward expanded trade.

"We went from a summit which was supposed to bury FTAA to a summit in which all 34 countries actually talk in terms of enhanced trade ... recognizing there are challenges," US national security adviser Stephen Hadley told reporters aboard a plane taking Bush from Argentina to Brazil.

"I would say that is some real progress."

The White House, looking to put the best possible face on the gathering, quickly released a long list of what it said were achievements at the summit, including, for example, that Bush, on the economic front, "encouraged his fellow leaders to make the strategic leap from commitment to achievement, and emphasized that words must lead to results."

During the two-day meeting that opened Friday at the seaside resort of Mar del Plata, the archrivals carefully kept their distance, except for the traditional group photo of leaders.

Meanwhile, outside the luxury hotel summit venue, the resort's downtown looked like a battlefield after Friday's violent anti-Bush demonstrations. *AFP*

Japan set to lift ban on US beef, but who'll buy?

TOKYO—JAPAN IS SET TO LIFT ITS NEARLY two-year ban on US beef imports and ward off a trade war but it remains to be seen if consumers in what was the US industry's biggest market feel the meat is safe enough to buy again.

Japan barred US and Canadian beef in 2003 after cases of mad cow disease and had come under intense political pressure to resume the multibillion dollar trade. A health panel gave the green light last week, meaning North American beef will likely be back on the shelves by December.

The news has met a mixed response across Japan's restaurants serving up beef bowls, a popular dish of sweet, seasoned strips of meat on top of rice.

Industry leader Yoshinoya had taken its most famous dish off the menu at its more than 1,000 outlets and had lobbied intensely for imports to resume, saying the ban had pushed it into the red for the first time in 24 years.

Yoshinoya welcomed the health panel's recommendation and said it was ready to cook US beef a month and a half after the ban is lifted.

But if customers choose to go to rival beef bowl chain Zensho, they won't eat any US beef for the time being.

"We cannot use (US beef) under the current inspection system," Zensho president Kentaro Ogawa told a press conference.

Ogawa, although praising the "consistently high quality of US beef," said he wanted the United States to "establish a system to regularly check if dangerous parts of beef are perfectly eliminated."

The Consumers Union of Japan wants labels on all beef to let Japanese shoppers avoid US and Canadian beef if they choose.

"It is impossible for the Japanese government to be responsible for other countries' screening system," Union secretary general Hiroko Mizuhara said.

Major Japanese retailers have mostly replaced US beef with Australian beef and they are not sure if Japan's quality-conscious consumers are as willing as the government to believe US beef is good to eat again. *AFP*

Special election to be a referendum on Arnie 's term

SAN FRANCISCO—CALIFORNIA GOV. ARNOLD Schwarzenegger's name will not appear on the special election ballot Tuesday, when California voters go to the polls to consider initiatives he says are crucial to reshape state government.

SCHWARZENEGGER

But the special election he called is as much a referendum on the governor himself as it is about the "year of reform" agenda he is asking voters to support. Its outcome is likely to set the stage for the next chapter of his unconventional political career.

If Schwarzenegger's early days in office were characterized by his celebrity status and bipartisan governing style, the past year has been defined by his launch of this divisive special election and the fallout from that decision.

A recent Field Poll found that just 36 percent of voters want to see Schwarzenegger reelected next year, with 55 percent opposed.

Schwarzenegger was elected as a moderate Republican in a Democratic state, but veered to the right to promote his reform initiatives, which target Democratic lawmakers and public-sector unions. He has paid a price for that gamble, losing support from large numbers of Democrats and independents, who constitute more than 60 percent of the California electorate.

Whatever the outcome on election day, political experts said the governor must work to repair the damage to his image brought on by the special election, which will cost the state $52 million to $55 million. Whether he can do so could determine his ability to govern next year and the strength of his bid for reelection. *AP*

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

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Pfizer

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SINGAPORE	$187
BANGKOK	$178
TAIPEI	$233
JAPAN	$350
KUALA LUMPUR	$197
SAIGON	$225
AUSTRALIA	$380
AUKLAND	$620
LOS ANGELES/SFO	$595
HONOLULU	$610
NEWARK	$754
EUROPE	$710
GUAM	$350

DOMESTIC PACKAGE	
BOHOL PKG	P 5265
BORACAY PKG	P 6635
DAVAO PKG	P 6310
CEBU PKG	P 5265
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INT'L. PACKAGE	
MACAU PKG	$ 210
3D2N HKG+SHENZHEN	$ 108
DISNEYLAND/HKG+SZN	$ 238
HONGKONG+DISNEYLAND	$ 278
BANGKOK PKG	$ 188
SINGAPORE PKG	$ 238
XIAMEN PKG	$ 233
SAIGON PKG	$ 314
GUAM PACKAGE	$ 330
HOLYLAND PKG	$ 1681
7D BETLEHEM PKG	$ 2145

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KOTA KINABALU	$[illegible]	KUALA LUMPUR +GENTING HIGHLANDS	$[illegible]
BANGKOK FREE & EASY	$ 188	4D/3N HKG+SZN W/DISNEYLAND+WINDOWS OF THE WORLD	$[illegible]
SINGAPORE VIA PAL	$ 225	5D/4N HKG DISNEYLAND+BEIJING	$[illegible]
HONGKONG FREE & EASY	$ 245	SINGAPORE+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA	$[illegible]

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SIN+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA	$ 295	SAIPAN Pkg	$ 345
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SZN+SHANGHAI	$228
HKG+DISNEY+BEIJING	$398
BANGKOK	$188
BANGKOK+PATTAYA	$270
BANGKOK+HONGKONG	$295
SINGAPORE	$235
SIN+MALAY+INDONESIA	$295
SINGAPORE+KUALA	$370
KUALA LUMPUR	$265
JAKARTA	$365
BALI+HKG	$395
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$98	$178			

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HKG/SZN+SINGAPORE 5D $335 HKG/SZN+SAIGON 5D $370

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HONGKONG	120	205	SAIGON	220	220	LOS ANGELES	335	63[illegible]
SINGAPORE	185	185	BEIJING	230	370	TORONTO	435	855
BANGKOK	175	198	JAKARTA	255	300	HONOLULU	335	610
MACAU	100	155	SHANGHAI	235	317	GUAM	290	355
TYO / OSA	190	350	SEOUL	190	420	VANCOUVER	360	736
NAGOYA	190	406	KUALA LUMPUR	205	230	SYDNEY	360	460
TAIPEI	140	22[illegible]	DUBAI	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	12[illegible]	[illegible]

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SINGAPORE 3D/2N	$235	SAIGON+ HKG 5D/4N 3D/2N	$385
HKG FREE AND EASY 3D/2N	$245	SIN+KUL OVERLAND 6D/5N	$385
KUALA LUMPUR 3D/2N	$265	BALI+HKG 5D/4N	$395
2N HKG+1N SHZN W/ OCEANPARK	$283	SYDNEY 4D/3N	$558
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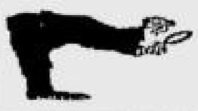

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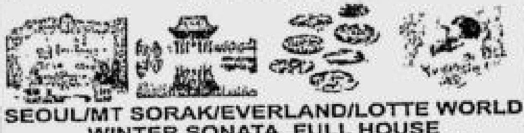

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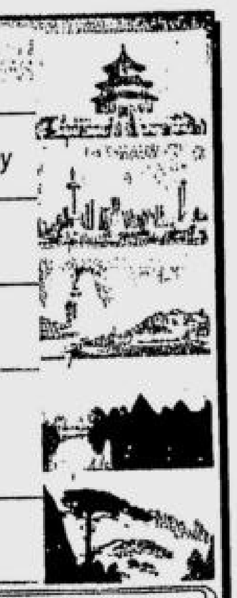

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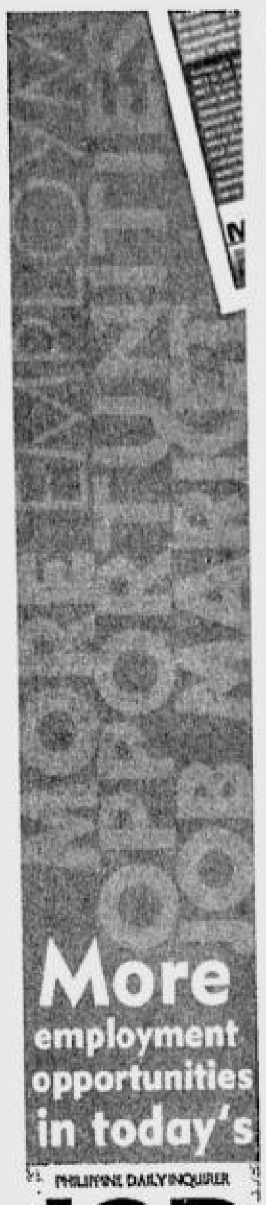

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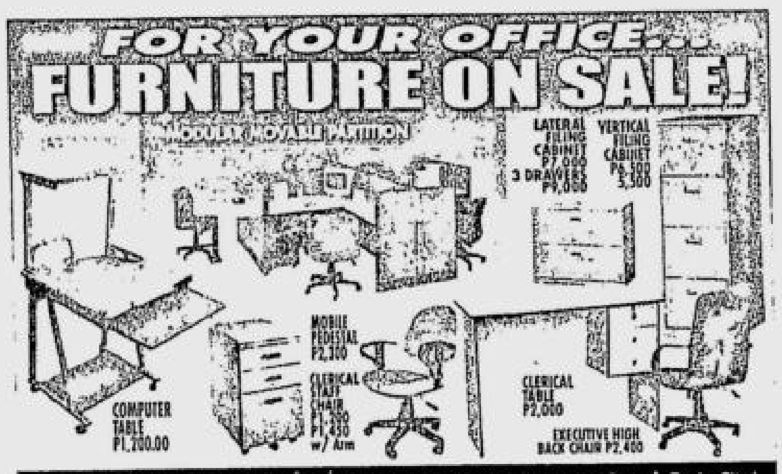
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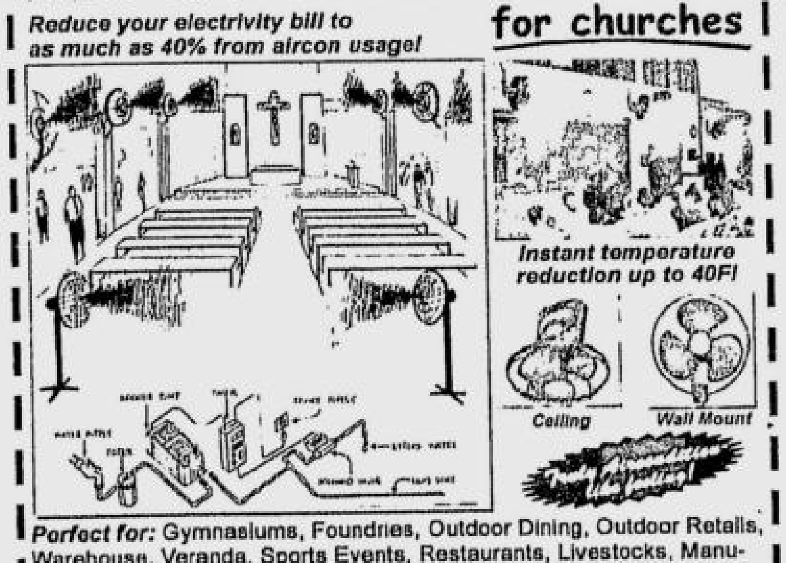
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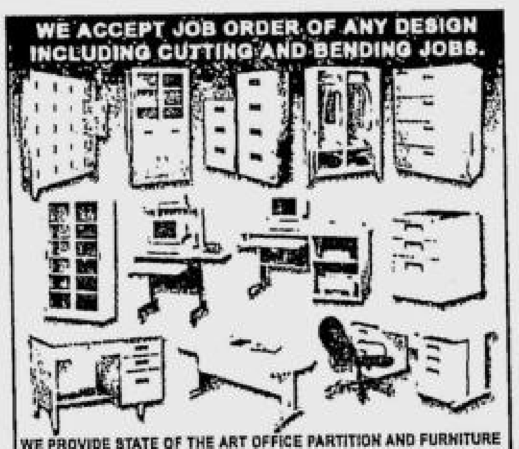

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200 arrested, 900 cars torched in new French riots

PARIS—ARSON AROUND PARIS AND OTHER French cities reached a peak Sunday with over 900 cars torched in one night, and nearly 200 arrests were made as authorities vowed to step up action against the youths responsible for 10 nights of violence.

Police deployed helicopters and continued their arrests of youths responsible for the street violence that has rocked France, as troubles flared for the 10th consecutive night in suburbs around Paris.

The outskirts of other cities around the country—including Toulouse, Rennes, Nantes and Lille—were hit by copycat arson attacks.

Fires were also started in central Paris itself, where a petrol bomb set alight four cars near a major square, Place de la Republique, while half a dozen vehicles went up in smoke in the 17th arrondissement, or district.

Despite calls for calm Saturday, 918 cars were torched overnight compared with 897 the previous night, while arrests were slightly down at 193 against 253.

Seven police helicopters fitted with powerful lights and cameras flew over Paris and some of the other cities in an effort to pursue and identify the youths, who have taken to setting fires then racing away, often on scooters.

Riot squads also broke down doors in a public housing estate in the western Paris suburb of Les Mureaux to arrest youths who had thrown objects, such as supermarket trollies, on them and on a nearby busy road.

Some 2,300 more police than normal were on the streets while additional firefighters were sent to the Paris region.

Most night bus services north and east of the capital were suspended overnight Saturday as a precautionary measure against ambushes which have seen at least two buses set fire to and destroyed.

Two people were slightly injured and 100 evacuated when an immigrants' hostel went up in flames at Athis-Mons west of Paris, while several properties suffered fire damage, including a McDonald's, two schools and a gym outside the capital.

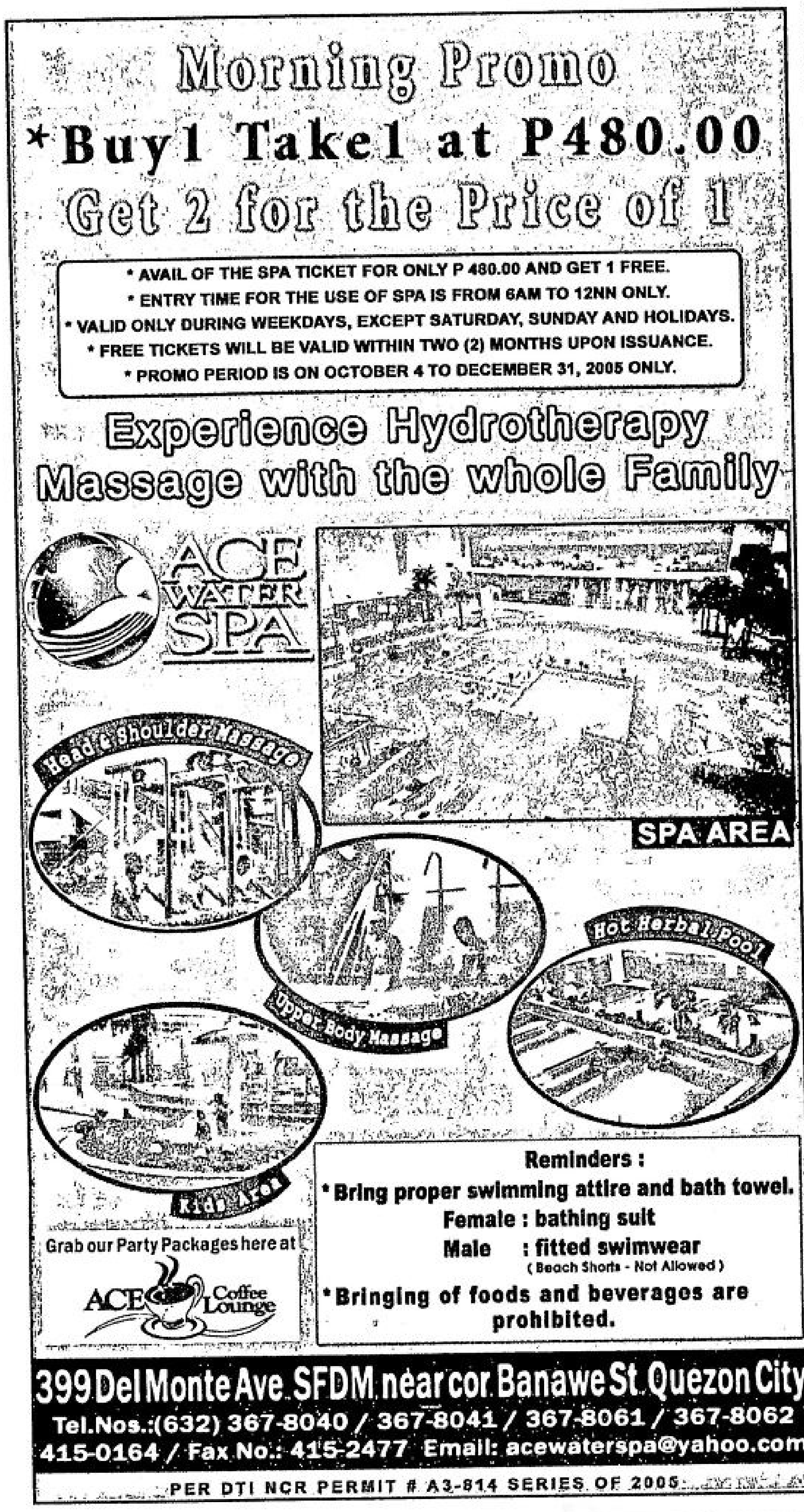
"It's too early to draw conclusions" about whether the violence was growing or declining, one police officer said.

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, who visited a police command headquarters in southern Paris overnight, has said that the gangs responsible for the violence have become increasingly organized. They have been seen using mobile telephones to relay police movements and Internet blogs to urge unrest elsewhere.

Some 570 people have been arrested since the riots began, some of them minors found carrying petrol bombs. In all, more than 2,000 automobiles have gone up in flames.

"We have the government totally mobilized," a junior social affairs minister, Catherine Vautrin, told LCI television.

She added that President Jacques Chirac was coordinating with Sarkozy and her boss, Employment Minister Jean-Louis Borloo. *AFP*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Taiwan 'bullet train' travels 300 kph in test

TAINAN, TAIWAN—PREMIER FRANK HSIEH and hundreds of guests and reporters rode Taiwan's "bullet train" Sunday in a public test run to seek support for the project, which is a year behind schedule.

The Japan-built train reached speeds of more than 300 kph for around 25 km on a 60-km section of track in the southern counties of Tainan and Kaohsiung.

"I could hardly sleep last night when I thought of taking the high-speed train today ... Now I'm really touched after having experienced the feeling of riding on a train at more than 300 kph," Hsieh told reporters.

"This also showed the government's determination to support the high-speed rail project is correct," he said, referring to the investment of 7.5 billion Taiwan dollars ($223.2 million) by the government in the 440 billion dollar project.

The official move has sparked severe criticism of the nature of the build-operate-transfer (BOT) project, the largest of its kind in the world's railway industry.

In 1998 Taiwan High-Speed Rail Corporation (THSRC) won the contract to build the system. The corporation is to manage it for 35 years before it is turned over to state control. *AFP*

UKRAINE GOLDEN GIRL
Ukrainian Katya Marchuk, an 18-year-old student from Kiev, smiles after winning the "Gold crown of Ukraine" beauty pageant in the capital Kiev Nov. 5.
REUTERS

China mobilizes military to fight bird flu

BEIJING—CHINA HAS MOBILIZED its armed forces and allocated emergency funds and vaccines to fight bird flu as a mass cull of poultry and birds continued Sunday following a new outbreak in the country's northeast.

The cull was being carried out in Heishan county of Liaoning province, where the outbreak, confirmed on Thursday as the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, has killed nearly 9,000 chickens in six villages.

Other cities and provinces were meanwhile stepping up precautions. The central province of Hunan was banning the mixed raising of animals. Beijing was ordering all animals, including pets, to be vaccinated.

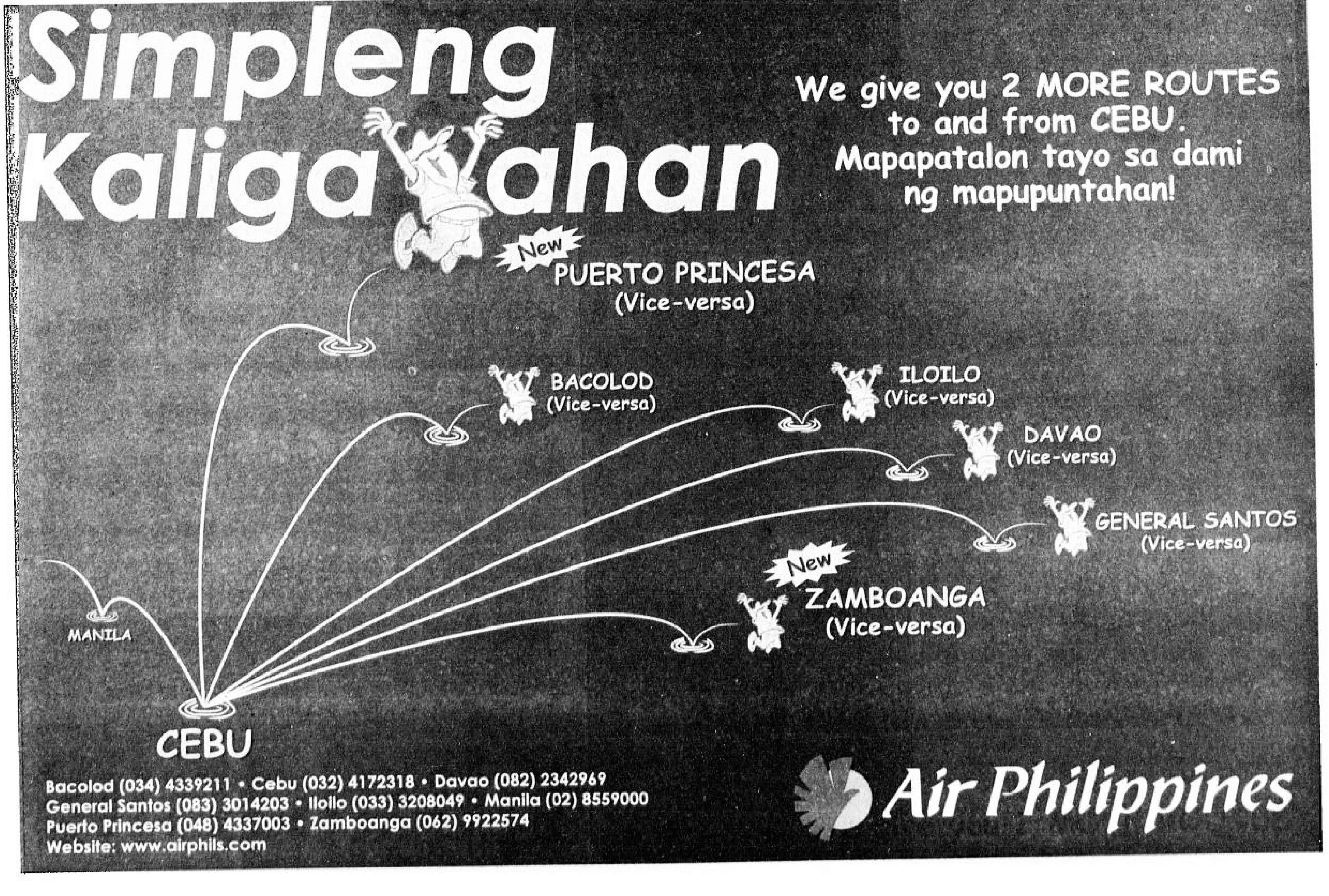
The outbreak in Liaoning is China's fourth in just over two weeks, with migratory birds the most likely culprits, the agriculture ministry said.

"All the poultry in the region must be slaughtered by zero hour (midnight) on Sunday," Xinhua news agency said, quoting local officials.

The People's Armed Police, a unit of China's People's Liberation Army, has been dispatched to Heishan county to help experts carry out the slaughter.

Covered head to toe in hooded Army outfits and latex gloves, the soldiers were shown in newspapers grabbing chickens by the neck one at a time from rows of cages in the farms and stuffing them into bags.

As of Sunday morning more than one million poultry have been slaughtered, the China News Service quoted officials as saying. *AFP*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La Vita less 'dolce' for Italians

ROME—ITALIANS ARE COMPLAINING THE Dolce Vita isn't quite what it used to be, with nearly half the population feeling poorer than a year ago, even if they still eat well and smoke less, Italy's statistics bureau ISTAT said in its annual report.

The report showed 47.8 percent declared themselves to be poorer, a more than seven percent jump from 2002, with dissatisfaction greater in the less-industrialized south.

There, the number of people believing themselves worse off rises to nearly 60 percent.

Not only poorer, but older too. The ISTAT report shows nearly one-fifth of the population is aged over-65, far outweighing the 14 percent aged 15 or less.

"In 2004, a further increase in the degree of population ageing was recorded," bemoaned the 800-page report released on Friday.

Part of the problem is that Italy continues to have one of Europe's lowest birth rates, with mothers on average having just 1.33 children. But the trend, at least, is upward.

The figure is "the highest level recorded in Italy in the last 15 years," the report says. In 1995, the birth-rate was just 1.19 children per mother.

The survey also found more women in work than previous years, even if they are mostly in part-time employment, with one-in-four women working half-days.

Italy's overall population rose 574,000 last year to 58.4 million, mainly due to immigration.

Italians might complain of being poorer but they don't skimp on home comforts. ISTAT says three in four households have cellphones and notes a recent boom in sales of air-conditioning units as Italians fought the effects of suffocating summer heat in successive years.

Families with air conditioners rose from 16.5 percent in 2003 to nearly 21 percent last year.

One surprise is that only 40 percent of a nation of gadget-lovers use computers, though Internet use is widespread, with 31.8 percent of users connected.

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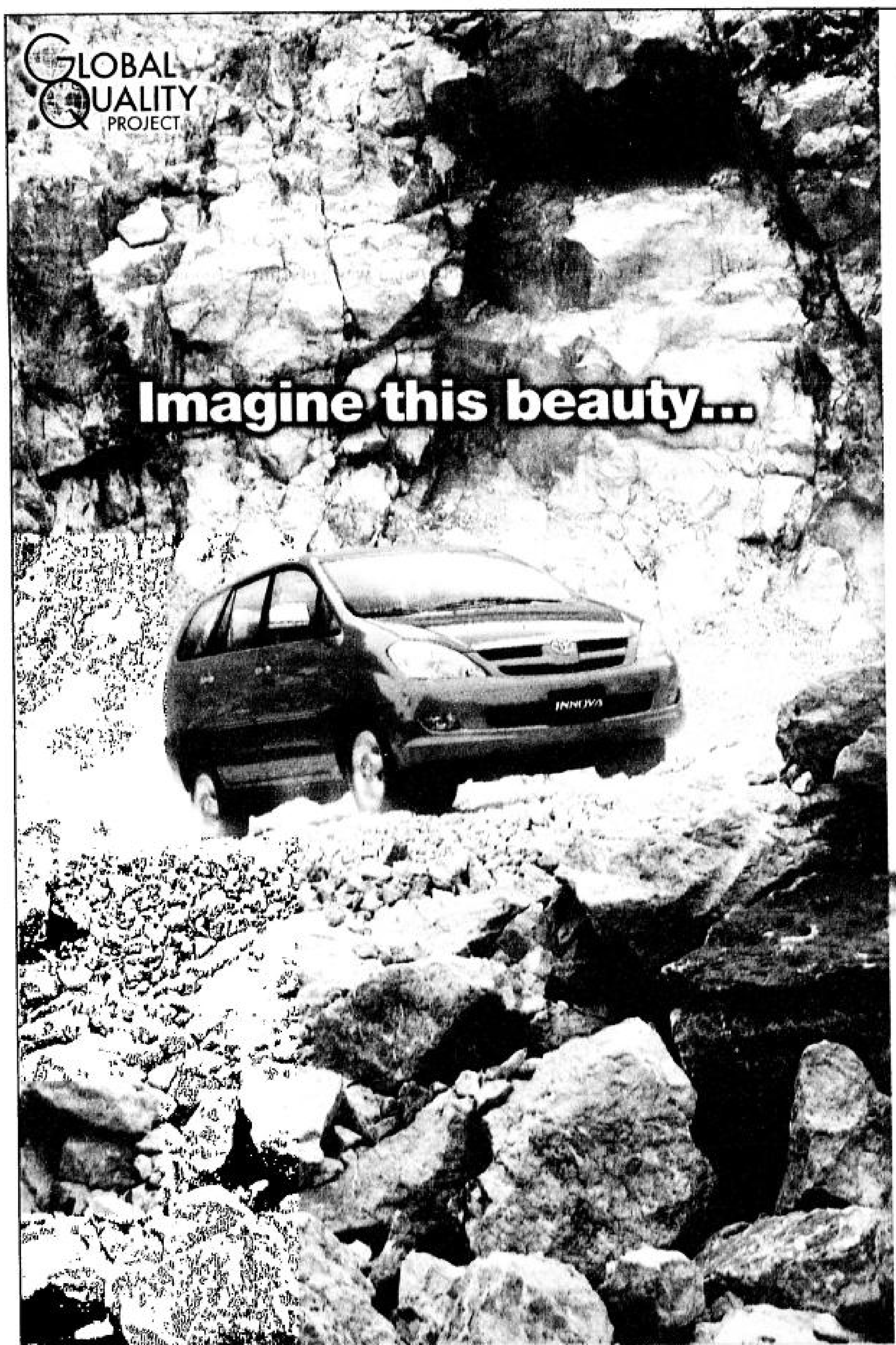

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Terrorizing media

EDITORIAL

WE FIND THE PRESIDENT'S ON-THE-RECORD remarks about ABS-CBN news anchor Julius Babao's supposed role in the Tyrone "Dawud" Santos affair a matter of deep concern; we find the administration's continuing insistence that the incident is mere matter of course doubly disturbing.

Let us be clear. There is nothing wrong with the government—acting, in this case, through its military intelligence command—filing an "intelligence report" on the circumstances that led to the bail-posting by Santos, an alleged terror group leader, last April 26. If the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines had not done so, it would have been grossly remiss in its duties.

There is nothing wrong with the President's staff making sure that the Isafp intel report, with its speculative reading of a prominent journalist's alleged terrorist-coddling, reached President Macapagal-Arroyo. Regardless of what anyone may think about the analytically deficient character of the report, the responsibility of those in the paper chain to bring it or any other such document to the President's attention is beyond argument.

There is nothing wrong, either, with the President confiding in a person she trusts her personal reaction to the "very disturbing" report and its unhappy implications. If anything, we would all want the Chief Executive to broaden her circle of confidants, the better to vet her decisions.

What is wrong with the Babao-Santos case, however, is the President going on record about it. Let us consider the undisputed facts. Santos posted bail—allegedly under mysterious circumstances, according to Isafp—six months ago. The Isafp report linking Babao to Santos' bail is on its face speculative. Nothing—we repeat, nothing—had been done in the six months since, to confirm (or disprove) the speculation. Thus, when the President publicly aired her concern about Babao's alleged help in posting Santos' bail, she was acting on the tenuous basis of a flimsy, unconfirmed, six-month-old report.

We expect the President, as commander in chief, to have done better than that.

The ever-loyal presidential spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, has come to her rescue again, deploying provocative remarks designed to take the heat off the President. But Bunye or his comments are not the issue; it is Ms Arroyo's decision to go public, and in the process color a professional journalist's reputation, based on nothing more than haphazard intelligence.

That is the real issue.

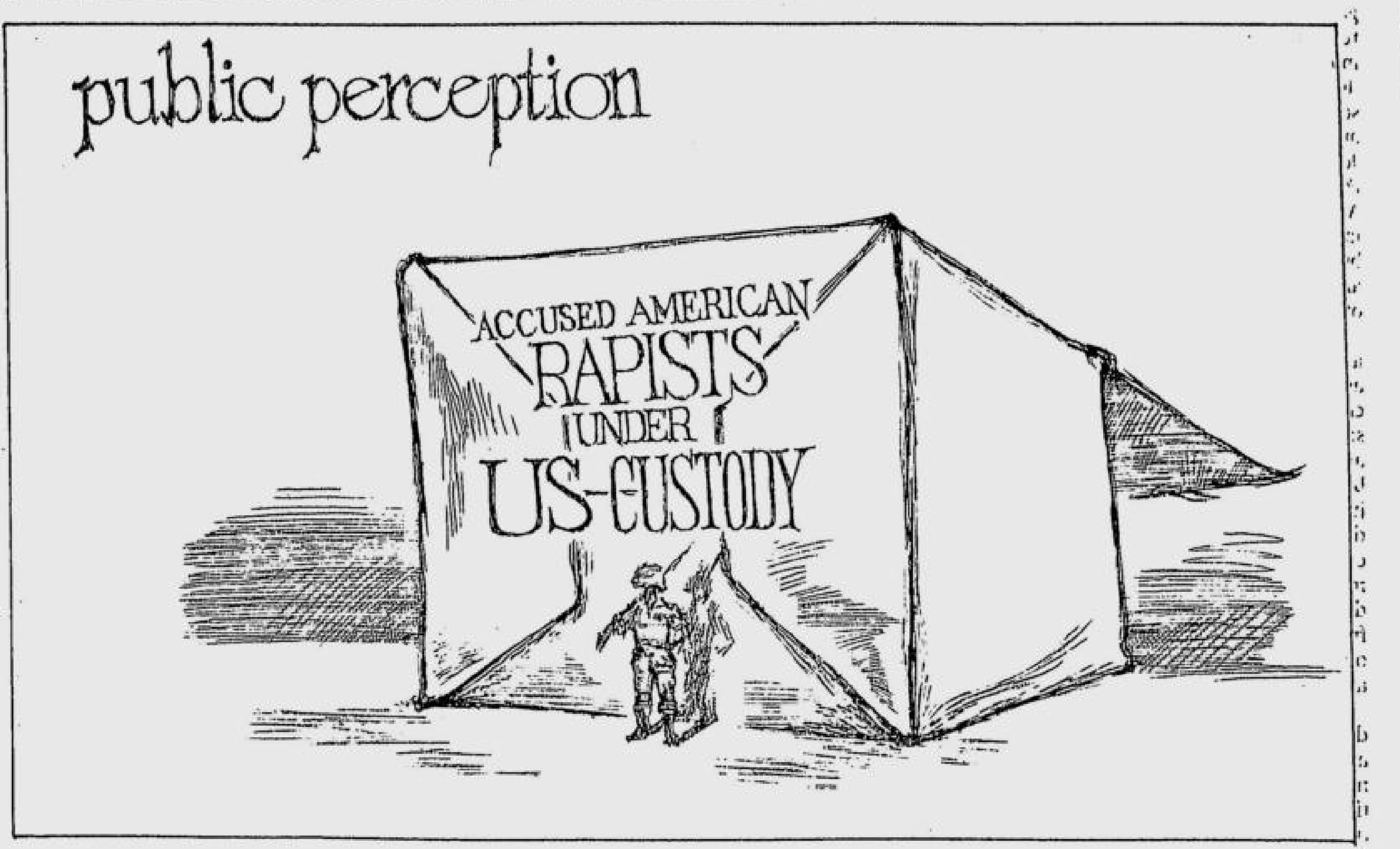
We are under no illusions; we believe the ABS-CBN network needs to make a full accounting of the events that transpired on April 26. The network's official statements give us hope that such an accounting is on its way. Most likely, it will address the ethical issue specific to media: Where does a journalist draw the line between the active, enterprising pursuit of a story and intervention in the story itself?

We do not think it likely that so-called checkbook journalism is involved here; in all likelihood, we are dealing with the relentless chasing after an exclusive story (and, of course, those damned ratings, especially at the expense of the "other" network). Aiding and abetting terrorism? Uninformed, ultimately dangerous, nonsense.

Here's the puzzle: Why would the President, a longtime academic with longstanding friends in media, seek to turn such nonsense into a public, national-security issue? The Isafp has no monopoly on the art of speculation; versions circulating these days include the following: Ms Arroyo feeling cocky enough at this stage of her continuing crisis of legitimacy to take on the so-called Big Media; the President succumbing to political paranoia and lashing out at anything that moves; and the President playing a calculated game to pass her version of the anti-terrorism law.

We could go on. But the most useful theory to explain the President's surprising, dangerous decision is also the easiest, in theory, to prove. The potshot at Babao was designed to give less-well-connected journalists pause, if not to stop them outright in their tracks. Has the chilling effect taken hold?

We in media owe it to the public we all serve to help each other stop the creeping, encroaching cold.



Let's hear it straight from Julius Babao

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

I INTERVIEWED BROADCASTER JULIUS Babao last Friday at Annabel's in Quezon City (where he and a mutual friend were taking a snack) on the government allegation that he bailed out suspected terrorist Tyrone "Dawud" Santos last April.

I will jump straight to his answers regarding the important parts of the controversy: No, he did not bail out Santos; no, he did not act as guarantor for Santos' bail bond; and no, he did not coach Santos during the bail hearing.

He said he was there only to cover the hearing for ABS-CBN, and that Santos rode in the network's van because the Santos case was his exclusive story and he had asked his producer to keep Santos away from the other networks. He added that he interviewed Santos in his network's studios.

Babao said he first met Santos about two years ago when he and older brother Hilarion "Ahmad" Santos, alleged leader of the radical movement Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) which allegedly has links to the terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah, were arrested as suspected Muslim terrorists. Dawud had asked for his help as a broadcaster and Babao made a story about the Santos brothers.

Babao didn't see him again until about a year later. Santos had found his picture on a military poster of wanted "terrorists" and called Babao. Babao made a story for "TV Patrol" wherein Santos, in tears, denied he was a terrorist. That same night, Babao got a call from Santos' wife. Her husband had been arrested again, she said.

Babao was called again by the family and told of the date for the bail hearing. He went to the court only to cover it. He said he felt Santos' running story was his exclusive since he was the one who started it.

He denied he participated in any discussion about bail by Santos' group.

What was the role of Jonathan Tiongco?

Babao said Tiongco had called him earlier to tell him that he (Tiongco) would help Santos.

Why would Tiongco do that?

"Tiongco was some sort of a human rights activist," Babao replied. "He felt Dawud was being persecuted because he is a Muslim convert."

According to lawyer Nicomedes Martelino, Santos' legal counsel, Tiongco is his "legman" who did para-legal work for him. It was Martelino who had asked for a reduction of Santos' P200,000 bail. But the plea was made before a Tarlac court, not in the Metro Manila court that ordered his release, Martelino told the Kapihan sa Sulo last Saturday. (Is it allowed to have a bail hearing for the same accused in two different courts?) Contrary to what Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence, said on Oct. 27—that Santos had been missing since he was released on April 26—Santos appeared during a scheduled hearing last week at the Tarlac court, but it was the fiscal who was missing.

Martelino's revelation puts a damper on the Isafp (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines) report. Isafp had reported that Martelino, after asking the court to reduce the set bail of P200,000 because Santos could not afford it, talked to Babao, after which the lawyer came back to tell the court that they would pay the bail. The bail bond had been reduced by the Tarlac court to P50,000 and they paid only the premium for the bond, Martelino said.

Who paid for the premium?

Martelino said he did not know.

What is the name of the bonding company?

Summit Surety and Insurance Corp.

Would Summit have a record of who paid the premium and whether Babao had guaranteed the bail bond?

Maybe. You can check its records.

There you have it, the controversy can be easily cleared by merely backtracking and checking the facts. It seems the Isafp should take lessons from journalists, which is to check and re-check facts because one error can be unfair to those who would be adversely affected by the report. The Isafp tends to jump to conclusions too quickly. In Santos' case, they watched the movements of the people there and then immediately concluded that Babao put up the money to spring Santos. It would have been very easy to check Summit Surety's records or to ask its personnel who paid for the bail bond, but for the Isafp agents, it was easier to jump to conclusions.

As of now, these are the only undeniable facts: (1) Isafp agents filed a report stating that Babao bailed out Santos based on very flimsy evidence or without any proof at all and without bothering to get confirmation; (2) Isafp's top officials passed on this raw information to the President; (3) the President invited columnist Ramon Tulfo to Malacañang and passed on the information to him, expecting him to mention it in his column; and (4) Tulfo promptly did just that.

According to Tulfo, he asked the President, twice, if the information was being served "on the record," to which she replied that it was.

Tulfo cannot be blamed for the injustice that has been committed on Babao. If the information had come from another source, a journalist would have checked it. But coming from the President, it was as if etched on stone. After all, presidents are expected to always tell the truth. But since GMA, that principle doesn't hold true anymore.

The blame falls, first, on Isafp for doing sloppy work and for passing on the fruit of that kind of work to the President without telling her that it was unverified raw information. The blame also falls on the President for leaking (it really looks like this was intentionally done) the unconfirmed information to Tulfo.

The question now is: Why did she do it? What has she got against Babao?

It is believed in media circles that the real target of the "leak" is not Babao but the whole media establishment in general, and ABS-CBN, in particular. It is a warning to the media: This is what we can do to you. Stop airing all those negative stories about me or else....

Making a difference

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

ON DEC. 1, 1955, ROSA PARKS, A SEAMstress took a bus home in Montgomery, Alabama. She had been working all day as a seamstress, and she sat down wearily on one of the seats. Soon, the bus became crowded, and the driver ordered Parks to give up her seat to a man. She refused. The driver shouted at her that if she didn't stand up, he would have her arrested. She replied, "You may go on and do so."

That story has been told countless times in America. Why was Rosa Parks obliged to give up her seat to another human being, indeed to a man, in the home of the free and brave on a wintry day? Because she was black.

And in 1955, to be black in Alabama was to be less than a human being. The John Crow laws of Alabama were elaborate in their persecution of them, and the ones pertaining to segregated busing especially so. The law prescribed two sections in buses, one for whites and one for blacks. The whites were to occupy the first four rows and the blacks the back rows. In the event the bus became crowded, the blacks were to give up their seats to the white passengers, progressively from fifth row going all the way back.

Indeed, to add insult to injury, blacks were required to pay the driver, a white man, directly when they boarded the bus, then climb back down and reenter through the back door. There were not a few occasions when a passenger was left behind, after the bus had taken off before he—or more often she—could get back in. Parks had been one such person. And the driver who had done that to her 12 years before was the same "mean-looking" guy who ordered her to give up her seat that fateful day in 1955. Parks was seated on the fifth row, the first row for "colored folk."

Parks was arrested, found guilty, and made to pay the fine. But her refusal to bow down to injustice would echo throughout the length and breadth of a sleeping land and awaken it from its stupor. It was that simple quiet act of defiance that gave birth to the American civil rights movement. Parks would soon be known as the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement and no honor was more richly earned.

That same night, the Women's Political Council issued this announcement: "We are asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest of the arrest and trial. You can afford to stay out of school for one day. If you work, take a cab, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don't ride the bus at all on Monday. Please stay off the buses Monday."

For the next 381 days, no black boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and blacks accounted for two-thirds of the bus fare there. On the day of Parks' trial, the Montgomery Improvement Association was formed and chose for its president a newcomer to Montgomery, a young Baptist by the name of the Rev. Martin Luther King. Addressing a crowd that included Parks that evening, King delivered a stirring speech that began, "There comes a time that people get tired."

A year later, in November 1956, the US Supreme Court declared the segregation laws of Alabama unconstitutional and banned them forever.

Rosa Parks died last Monday in Detroit at 92 years old. But not before seeing the tectonic plates of history shift from the nudge she gave them 50 years before.

Rosa Parks is as much of consequence to us as to Americans, and as much today as 50 years ago. At the very least, that is so because she reminds us of how deeply injustice can run in a society with everyone thinking she or he is powerless to stop it; indeed, with the world having learned to accept it as right and just. Today, it seems almost inconceivable that only 50 years ago, deep in the heart of America, the country that even then was trying to carve the world after its image and likeness, blacks could not use the same toilets as whites as though s—t had different colors. It won't take us 50 years to realize how not too long ago, almost inconceivably, we allowed this country to be inverted, perverted and corrupted by someone who never had a mandate to rule, who made black white and white black and unleashed a reign of lie, fear and bigotry, bringing out the worst in everyone.

At the very most, that is so because Rosa Parks reminds us that a person can make a difference. That is something that is often lost in our concept of People Power which, even in the minds of those who stoked it in the past, meant a faceless mass rattling the gates of heaven. We think of defiance in terms of numbers and quantity. Parks reminds us that defiance has a face, often a serene and dignified one. In the end, it is the quiet realization that comes a time when people get tired and tear down the gates of heaven, or of hell. In the end, it is answering the threat of reprisal with "You may go on and do so" that brings down a tyranny.

The poet laureate Rita Dove says it best: "History is often portrayed as a string of arias in a grand opera, all baritone intrigues and tenor heroics. Some of the most tumultuous events, however, have been provoked by serendipity . . . One cannot help wondering what role Martin Luther King Jr. would have played in the civil rights movement if the opportunity had not presented itself that first evening of the boycott—if Rosa Parks had chosen a row farther back from the outset, or if she had missed the bus altogether.

"At the end of this millennium (and a particularly noisy century), it is the modesty of Rosa Parks' example that sustains us. It is no less than the belief in the power of the individual, that cornerstone of the American Dream, that she inspires, along with the hope that all of us—even the least of us—could be that brave, that serenely human, when crunch time comes."

Just change "American Dream" into "Democratic Ideal," and that applies to all of us.

The terrorism challenge

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Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

"TERRORISM IS THE CANCER OF THE MODERN world. No state is immune to it. It is a dynamic organism which attacks the healthy flesh of the surrounding society. It has the essential hallmark of malignant cancer: unless treated, and treated drastically, its growth is inexorable, until it poisons and engulfs the society on which it feeds, and drags it down to destruction," so wrote P. Johnson in "Terrorism: How the West Can Win." For his part, Israel's Supreme Court President Aharon Barak says: "Human rights are extremely important and a democracy should respect them, but a democracy does not have to commit suicide and sacrifice the lives of her citizens for the sake of proving her viability."

The challenge of terrorism is less for totalitarian or authoritarian states. For them, security agencies are free to deal with terrorism in all secrecy and they are accountable only to themselves. For them, success is the measure of what is allowed. For democracies, however, confronted by both internal and external enemies, it is not just a question of winning but of winning without destroying democracy in the process. They must ensure that even in the process of investigation, methods which curtail the freedoms of political dissent and association, essential ingredients of a free society, are not used. It is in this context that our legislature is struggling to formulate the right anti-terrorism law.

One of the things Congress is looking for is a definition of terrorism that is sufficiently precise and distinguishable from other crimes. At the moment, there is no universally acceptable definition of terrorism as a crime. Looking for a definition is particularly a problem for democracies. As the cliché goes, "one man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter." Various definitions have been offered and there are certain recurring elements. These are: the use of force and violence, the achievement of a political objective as an end, premeditated and deliberate systematic murder, threatening of the innocent to create fear, intimidation in order to achieve political gain, or to coerce government, individuals or groups to modify their behavior.

I do not believe, however, that the real problem for law enforcers is the lack of a definition of terrorism as a crime. When one looks at the acts committed by people branded as terrorists, one can see that even without the label of terrorism they can be prosecuted under different crime categories already found in statute books. The real problem for enforcers is the problem of detection and investigation techniques, as well as the problem of firming up enough evidence that can nail a suspect. It is also this problem which legislators are facing—how to craft a law that can stop terrorist acts or convict terrorist actors without doing violence to the guarantees that are firmly entrenched in the Constitution.

We can begin with the surveillance process. Already the law enforcer must deal with laws on privacy rights. After surveillance has achieved a measure of success, the law enforcer must face the guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures. Warrants are generally needed. The efforts exerted in surveillance can go to naught if search or seizure is done against constitutional guarantees. Whatever evidence may be discovered in violence of these guarantees can go to waste. Evidence illegally obtained, no matter how relevant, is inadmissible.

Once arrested, the suspect is protected by the Miranda rights: (1) The person in custody must be informed at the outset in clear and unequivocal terms that he has a right to remain silent. (2) After being so informed, he must be told that anything he says can and will be used against him in court. (3) He must be clearly informed that he has the right to consult with a lawyer and to have the lawyer with him during the interrogation. He does not have to ask for a lawyer. The investigators should tell him that he has the right to counsel at that point. (4) He should be warned that not only has he the right to consult with a lawyer but also that if he is indigent, a lawyer will be appointed to represent him. (5) Even if the person consents to answer questions without the assistance of counsel, the moment he asks for a lawyer at any point in the investigation, the interrogation must cease until an attorney is present. (6) If the foregoing protections and warnings are not demonstrated during the trial to have been observed by the prosecution, no evidence obtained as a result of the interrogation can be used against him.

In addition to all these, no torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation or any other means which vitiates the free will shall be used against him. Secret detention places, solitary, *incommunicado*, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited. Finally, when trial time comes, guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt.

These, to my mind, and not the absence of a definition of terrorism, are the real problems that law enforcers must face. But for as long as we are a democratic nation and the provisions remain in the Constitution, legislators cannot barter them away. What legislators must look for are more effective methods of crime detection and prevention but without sacrificing human rights. This is the problem that is giving our legislators pause as they grapple with the clamor for an anti-terrorism law.

Rule of law and poetic justice

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

THE LATEST EXCITING NEWS, AS I WRITE THIS, is the disclosure of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that anti-Arroyo forces will launch a coup in December and "forcibly" remove Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from Malacañang.

The only reason one can believe this is: forcible, physical option—aside from cutting off power and water supply—seems to be the only way to accomplish the objective of removing GMA from the Palace; because for as long as Virgilio Garcillano remains hidden, actual occupation is the only claim she has to the seat of power and the presidency.

Otherwise, there is nothing shocking—not even surprising—in Santiago's revelation, coming as it does as just one in a series of almost daily mind-boggling developments that leave us breathless, frustrated, depressed, infuriated, enraged; sick to the very core of our beings.

How have we come to this? Why are we suffering the darkest, most agonizing, most difficult, most despised period in our history, including the martial law regime? (At least then the Blue Diamonds of the Philippine Air Force were flying high.)

What have we done to deserve a government against the people? An administration with zero credibility that has made chronic lying a matter of policy and severely punishes and silences people who tell the truth? An administration that pays off, threatens, kidnaps and makes disappear vital witnesses?

Governance, or a semblance of it, is carried on in front of TV cameras, while real power reportedly lies in a "junto" composed of martial law relics who in turn—to give a semblance of legitimacy to their rule—follow the beat not of the Cabbage Patch Doll they are propping up, but that of the Commander who refuses to just fade away.

How is it that our fate now lies in the hands of three people—GMA, FVR and JDV—who use us as mere bargaining chips in their power-play?

This is a text message I got last month: "I see a non-President. She walks around in the Palace pretending not to know that she is a non-President. She issues orders and appoints people as if she were President. Let us help her realize that she is a non-President, so she can move out."

Well, that doesn't seem to work, and not for lack of trying.

And nothing the opposition and all those who want to remove Ms Arroyo from power will do is going to work because she is always one step ahead of them. Even as we speak, the so-called Constitutional Commission she has formed is already drafting a constitution that she will use to perpetuate herself and her allies in power.

In fact, she was 10 steps ahead of them when she insisted on Noli de Castro as her running mate, thereby shooting two birds with one stone: to attract the *masa* votes that she knew she could hardly get; and to discourage all thoughts of ousting her because we would be too scared of the prospect of De Castro as President. And she succeeded.

Even now, you still hear people who otherwise want nothing more than her departure, asking "*Sino naman ang papalit* (Who's to replace her)?"

Not too long ago, we could boast to the whole world that we were able to remove a very powerful dictator from Malacañang. Now, we cannot even oust a President with no mandate.

Are we an accursed people? Is it karma? Have we broken some cosmic law?

But former President Corazon Aquino could have unwittingly provided the answer when she bravely and humbly enough admitted that she regretted her role in helping Ms Arroyo grab power from President Joseph Estrada.

You regret a mistake. Could we have made a mistake in ousting a very popular, duly elected President?

Maybe, there is some truth to the claim of Ms Arroyo that God Himself put her in power, but not in the sense of the divine right of kings (or queens) as she may have deluded herself into believing, but as our punishment for defying His voice in the voice of the people.

The removal of a duly elected president is clearly prescribed in the Constitution. Unlike Ms Arroyo, President Estrada submitted himself to the impeachment process. That it was aborted was no fault of his. That it was aborted was no reason to strip him of his immunity.

No president in his right mind will voluntarily resign.

The more than 10 million voters who elected him to serve for a term of six years can never understand the so-called "constructive resignation." Neither will they comprehend how a constitutional warp was created to accede to the demand of the *beso-beso* crowd who, in a fit of self-righteous indignation upon seeing the ledger of Chavit Singson, strengthened by the betrayal of Angelo Reyes, removed Erap and installed Ms Arroyo. And if we are to believe what is slowly being revealed in the Senate hearings, she will make him look like a little boy caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

When we took mug shots of Erap and fingerprinted him like a common criminal, that was not just *lèse majesté*, that was trampling upon the sovereign will of the people.

Maybe, this is why the anti-Arroyo groups have failed this far to get the support of the so-called "critical mass." Why should the *masa* risk being truncheoned and water-cannoned to support those who betrayed them? Erap may be a scoundrel in our eyes, but he is their scoundrel. And they are the majority.

But they will surely have the answer to the question that we can't seem to find the answer to: *sinong papalit*?

They will demand that we follow the Constitution and the rule of law, they will demand that we rewind the constitutional clock and reinstate the President they voted for, who to this day has not been pronounced guilty of the charges leveled against him. Perhaps, only then will they go to the streets.

More than the rule of law, that is poetic justice.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

A democratic endeavor

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE CITIZEN'S CONGRESS FOR TRUTH AND Accountability convenes this week. While I have not attended any of its meetings since its establishment under the auspices of the Bukluran Para Sa Katotohanan, I am a member of its steering committee. I agreed to the assignment after my reservations about the initiative were adequately answered.

Let me reveal how my reservations were addressed to help explain why I think the CCTA is an effort that merits public attention.

After the failure of the impeachment process, there were groups that quite forcefully insisted on the setting up of a People's Tribunal. I objected to the idea quite strongly. I saw it as a counterproductive and essentially meaningless undertaking.

I do not believe in revolutionary justice; it is the dark twin of summary executions and other counterinsurgency measures that sire more revolutionaries and lead to a never-ending cycle of poor Filipino soldiers killing poor Filipino peasants; while our national and revolutionary leaders live comfortably, beyond any accountability.

A People's Tribunal would be a summary execution on paper: its participants would be judge, jury and executioner—people who had already made up their minds. Besides, it would simply provide an all-too-convenient ammunition to those insisting that the President had done no wrong whatsoever.

At the same time, I did feel—equally strongly—that some sort of effort had to be undertaken to prove to the uncommitted; and as a means of educating the public, that the cases against the President were valid, not just the product of fertile imaginations, and could withstand sustained scrutiny.

I proposed the appointment of an independent people's prosecutor. He or she would not have subpoena powers; but as a credible enough individual, he could be asked to put together a summation—and even conduct a thorough investigation—of existing evidence gathered, weighed, sifted and judged according to the most scrupulous legal precepts.

I advocated that the special prosecutor be given the freedom to form his own legal team, to include, if he so wished, law students and professors. Those involved in the impeachment case would offer their evidence and testimony, but they, or any political figure, would not be a part of the prosecutor's team. The Hyatt 10, I had hoped, would be required by the special prosecutor to submit to an adversarial interrogation and—though it would not be a state-sanctioned legal proceeding—to swear to the authenticity of their testimony as if they were in an actual trial.

A public call would be made for information to answer clearly defined questions—or, shall we say, presumptions against the President, such as: Did she violate any law or her oath of office, as shown by the Garci tapes? Was there a cover-up (and a continuing one, at that) in the wake of their release to the public? Was the Hyatt 10 acting out of ambition or patriotism? And how useful was their testimony on the culpability of the President? In the light of reason and the laws, what should be the people's genuine case against their President?

After a period of investigation and analysis, the report of the special prosecutor would be submitted to the public, to assist in the process of discernment.

Apparently, after some consultations, the proponents of a People's Tribunal concluded that it would, indeed, be counterproductive to have an activity that aspired to being a trial; that it would be preferable to simply establish a venue for the presentation of evidence and arguments, subject to the questioning of a panel composed of respected persons. After lawyer Louie Sison presented this conclusion before the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines, I recall telling the same gathering that since, in essence, he had modified the initial proposal to the extent that it was remarkably similar to what I was espousing, I was publicly withdrawing my objections. Since then, nothing the organizers of the CCTA have done has made me regret supporting their initiative.

There is, of course, the question of the rather formidable presence and participation of communists in the Citizen's Congress. This is manifested in, among others, the unfortunate selection of the term "presidium" to describe the panel of presiders and lead questioners in the CCTA. The presence of communists in the CCTA is a non-issue, unless you believe that the only good communist is a dead one. My personal abhorrence of Communism as an ideology ends where the right of any Filipino to adopt and express an ideology begins. Indeed, my personal inclination is that communist participation in our political life is only objectionable when the ideology is expressed through violent means; and even then, for non-communists, the overarching principle should be the elimination of the inequalities that drive Filipinos to take up arms against their fellow Filipinos, not the extermination of communist rebels. Furthermore, I strongly believe that the liquidation of communist leaders and cadres engaged in political work is wrong and deserves the attention of society.

It is unfortunate that former Vice President Teofisto Guingona let loose the term "people's court." The CCTA has no judges; it will have no verdict—and if the process ends up taking on the characteristics of a farcical trial, that is not the intention. I do believe that as an exercise in civics, the CCTA may just have educational and political benefits for the broader public. At the very least, wait and see; pay attention to the process and you might just learn something.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Iraq's economic divide

COMMENTARY

Amal Kashf Al-Ghitta

EVERYONE WHO LOOKS AT IRAQ SEES A NATION DIVIDED between Shia, Sunni and Kurd communities. But an equally fundamental division—one that has contributed as much to the ongoing sectarian strife and opposition to the American-led military occupation—is the widening gap between Iraq's rich and poor.

When Iraq was liberated, most people, especially the poor, began to hope for a charismatic leader who would save them from the bitter reality of daily life. Raised in fear, they had no idea how democracy could apply to their society, or how human rights groups and other civic organizations could help shape the future.

Soon enough, Iraq was faced with a new social divide. On one side stood people who understood how to operate in a democracy, attain power and realize their ambitions. They learned to speak the language of democracy, gaining money and influence in the process and enlisting independent organizations to defend their rights and privileges.

On the other side, however, remains the vast population of powerless Iraqis, including widows and the divorced or abandoned women who have no one to provide for them and their children. For these people, democracy and human rights mean nothing. They are ignorant, poor and sick. Victimized by an educational system that collapsed over a decade ago, they have few skills that can help them find employment in Iraq's blighted economy.

During Saddam Hussein's reign, no effort was made to raise living standards for the poor. I have visited the huge slums of Iraq and found families living in homes with barely a roof to cover them, with infestations of insects everywhere, and with raw sewage seeping under their doors. Day or night, they live in darkness. Needing nothing more than food, decent housing and the possibility of a job, these families wait for death, dreading the cries of their starving children.

When I met the women who live in those houses, they showered me with questions: Will democracy give us food and houses? Will democracy stop men from beating their wives? Will it give citizenship to our children? Will it give us the right to divorce the husbands who abandon us?

My answer to all of these questions was "yes." Yes, democracy will give you the right to live in a decent house, the right to learn and work, and it will give citizenship to your children and make you equal with your men. But you have to work hard and make every possible effort in demanding your rights. They replied: "Saddam taught us for 35 years how to be jobless, silent and fearful. What can we do now?"

In these destitute areas, where most Iraqis live, people are prey to bitter temptations. Many are beyond the reach of political or government leaders. They fall easily into violence, theft and sabotage. Poverty drives some to take money in exchange for acts of violence, abetted by the lure of a false heroism that they were not able to act upon during Saddam's long reign. Poverty has exacerbated the trauma of Iraq's violent history of wars and atrocities which have desensitized people to killing.

Though conditions in Iraq today are drawing many young men toward violence, I am convinced that we need only to provide decent jobs and housing to save them. Jobs, in particular, will help young people to create new lives through serious work. We must not use no-work jobs to disguise an army of unemployed. We must give people jobs that allow them to contribute to the rebuilding of the country.

By nature, every individual seeks to prove himself as a useful person in his or her society. But the culture that Saddam created convinced Iraqis that political connections are the only way to gain authority, money and knowledge. Overcoming such sentiments will take time and a vibrant economy. This means that a new Iraqi government must have limited power, allowing the private sector to grow while encouraging widespread understanding of democracy and human rights.

Religious groups are ready to contribute to this process. We can also rehabilitate the technocrats who served under Saddam, so that they, too, have a chance to serve their country. Last but not least, we must provide loans to poor families to help them build a respectable life.

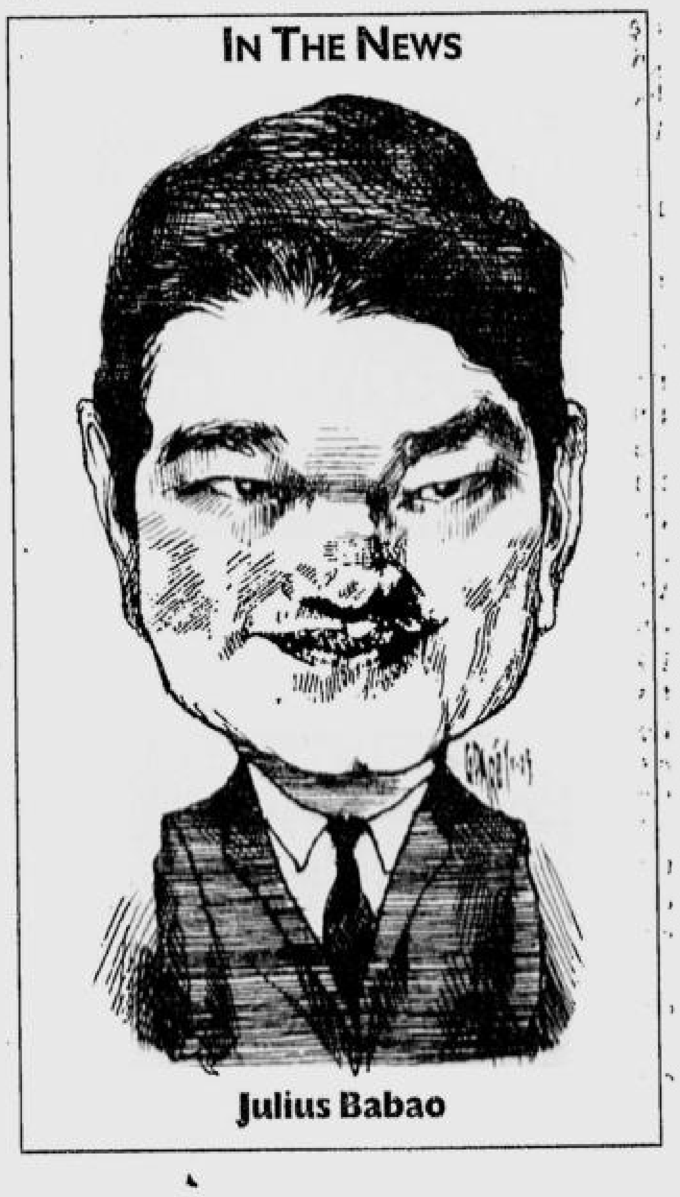
Above all, the government must spare no effort in convincing poor Iraqis of the value of democracy and freedom, and how important the constitution is in realizing their aspirations for a better life. This will not be easy to achieve in a country where many people consider breaking the law an act of heroism.

But we Iraqis have also learned that power should not be concentrated in a few hands, and that establishing justice requires fighting all forms of corruption. If the constitution is to operate as the guarantee of democracy, freedom and security, poor Iraqis must learn to make that fight their own.

Project Syndicate

Amal Kashf Al-Ghitta is a member of the Iraq National Assembly.

IN THE NEWS



Julius Babao

Corruption not in our culture; it's due to greed, opportunism

PRESS SECRETARY IGNACIO BUNYE WAS quoted as saying that "Corruption cannot be solved with just a snap of the fingers as it is deeply rooted in our culture."

The American Heritage Dictionary defines culture as "The behavior, patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions and all other products of human work and thought, esp. as expressed in a particular community or period." I don't think that there are any institutions, patterns of thought, behavior, art or beliefs, in the Philippines today that sanction corruption. Name one!

Corruption in the Philippines is an anomaly, a malady, a social disease, arising not from culture but from individual greed and opportunism, especially in high places. Jose Rizal, in his essay, "The [alleged] Indolence of the Filipinos," showed that in their native culture, before the coming of the Spaniards, the Filipinos were strictly honest in their dealings with each other and with foreigners. As an example, he cited the practice of Filipinos in paying Chinese traders who left their wares on local shores with barters of equal value without anyone guarding or stealing the wares. OFWs are noted for their honesty, while today's newspapers frequently report on individual acts of honesty among common folk here in the Philippines.

To claim that corruption is "endemic" in the Philippines is to exhibit parochialism and contempt for Filipinos, the same contempt displayed by our former colonial masters. Corruption is present in every society—American, European, included—as every reader of world history and literature knows. Bunye's blaming Filipino "culture" for corruption is a variation of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's blaming the "system" for her "lapse in judgment" in talking with a Comelec official while the 2004 election was still in progress. It is an excuse for failure, as well as for official connivance and wrongdoing.

If corruption is "perceived" to be prevalent in the Philippines today, blame the lack of moral leadership in the present political and elite circles and not on our native culture that venerates honesty.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
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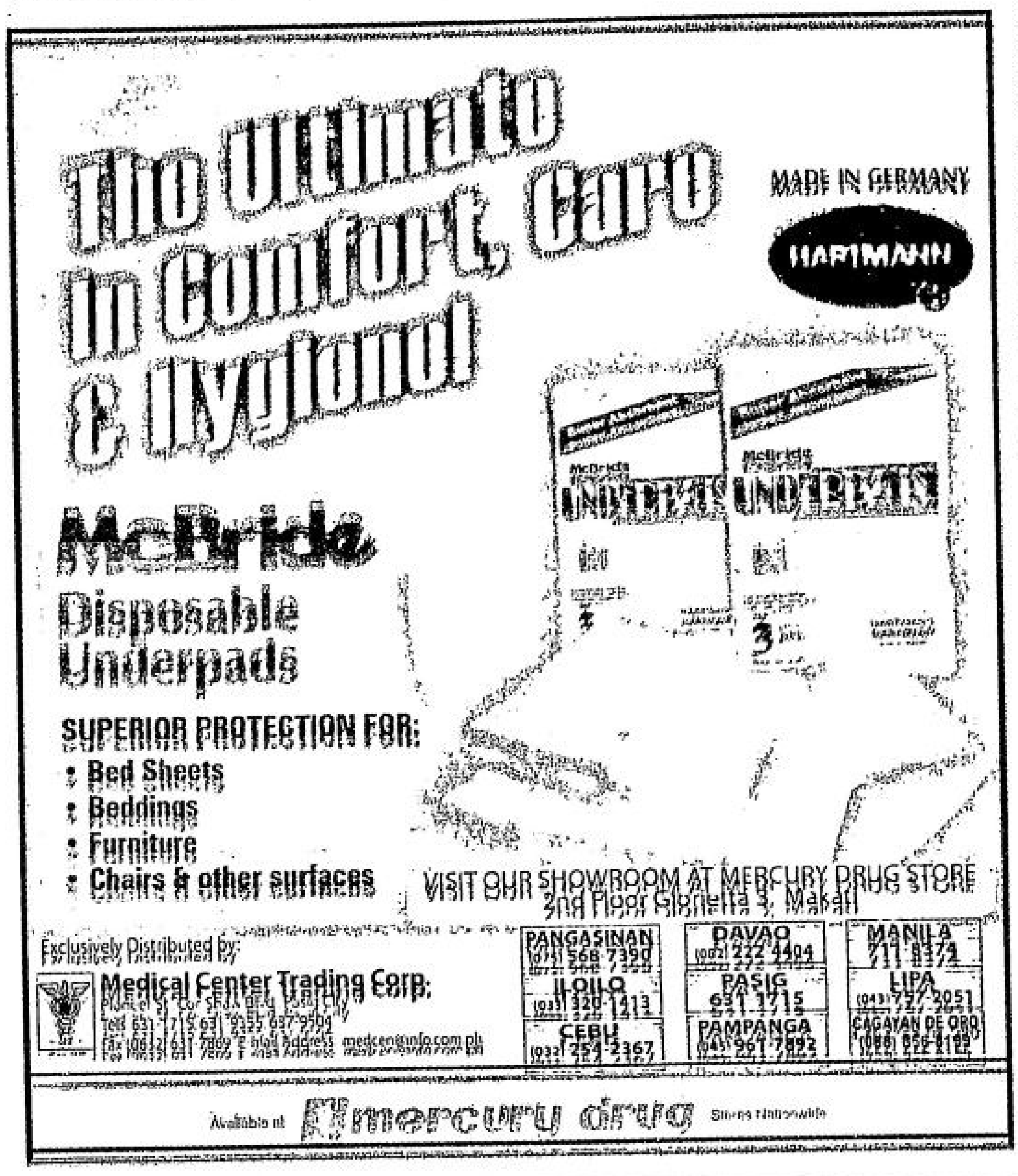
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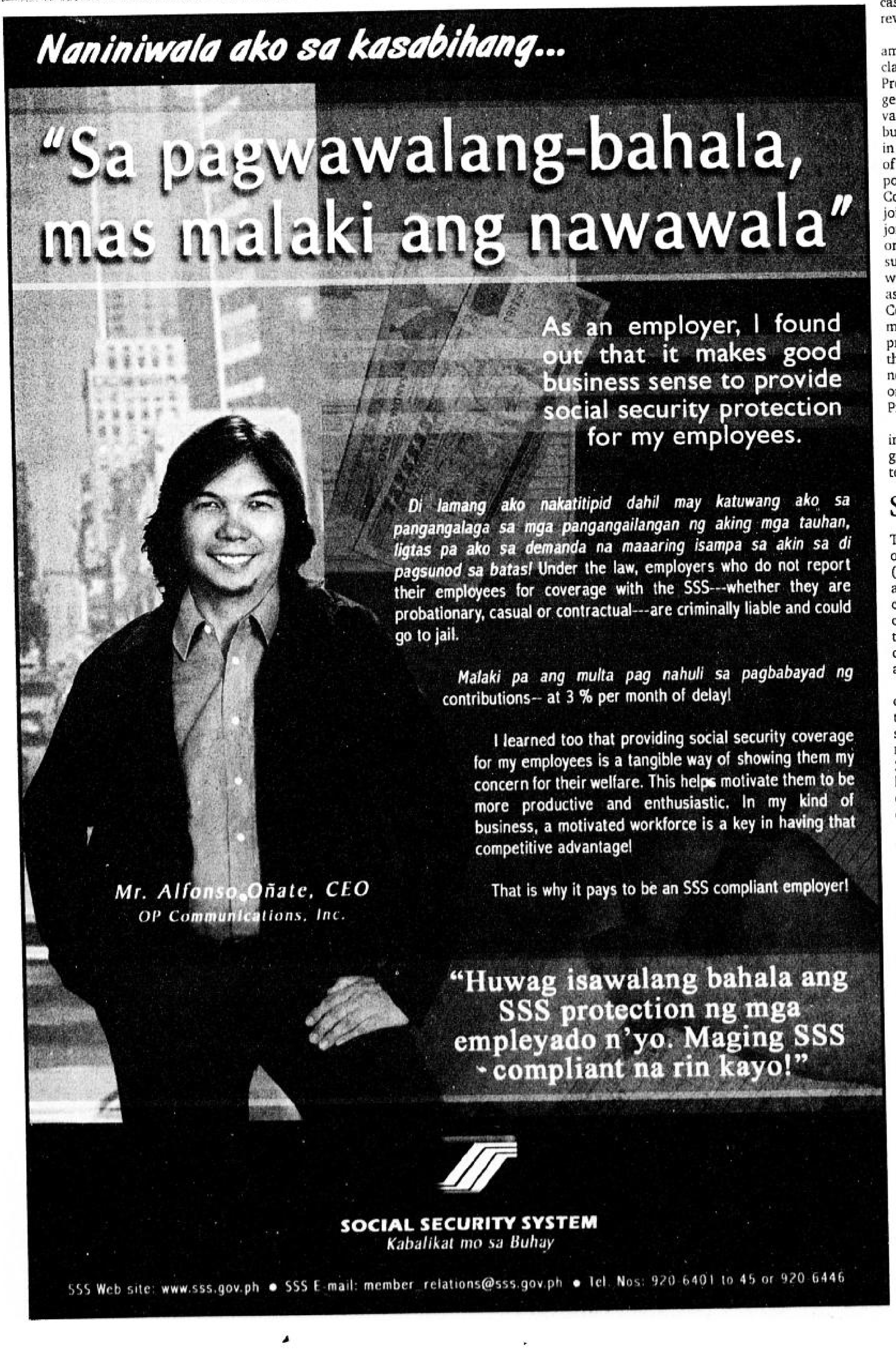
Naniniwala ako sa kasabihang...

"Sa pagwawalang-bahala, mas malaki ang nawawala"

As an employer, I found out that it makes good business sense to provide social security protection for my employees.

Di lamang ako nakatitipid dahil may katuwang ako sa pangangalaga sa mga pangangailangan ng aking mga tauhan, ligtas pa ako sa demanda na maaaring isampa sa akin sa di pagsunod sa batas! Under the law, employers who do not report their employees for coverage with the SSS---whether they are probationary, casual or contractual---are criminally liable and could go to jail.

Malaki pa ang multa pag nahuli sa pagbabayad ng contributions-- at 3 % per month of delay!

I learned too that providing social security coverage for my employees is a tangible way of showing them my concern for their welfare. This helps motivate them to be more productive and enthusiastic. In my kind of business, a motivated workforce is a key in having that competitive advantage!

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Marcelo's achievement as Ombudsman

THERE ARE CERTAIN EGREGIOUS lapses in Juan L. Mercado's Oct. 20 column.

I hate to spoil a good story but Simeon Marcelo did not present Clarissa Ocampo in the impeachment trial. Ayo Bautista did. The prosecution lawyers were by and large competent and workmanlike, the kind you see in our courts all over the land day after day.

At least two senators of the realm have said he is resigning because of pressure on him to drop the case against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, for taking what former President Estrada had refused to accept—the $14 million Mark Jimenez offered for use by "the Office of the President," which eventually allegedly got divided into $7 million for Mark, $2 million for Nani, $1 million "for the boys," and $4 million to the usual suspects, right after Edsa II in 2001.

The complaint remains unresolved, dealt with in truly "turtle-pace" fashion, as in the cases of the Marcoses and their cronies (e.g., Disini), the generals et al.; while we toil twice a week in the only special court created after Yamashita was convicted by a tribunal customized and programmed to convict in a tawdry example of a victor's justice.

Today, we are having a trial where another special but lower court is seeking to find out whether the "People" and the Supreme Court erred in ousting, convicting and punishing the only president in the last decade to have won clearly. You need to ask Marcelo whether, like President Aquino, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Uncle Jovy Salonga, former Senate President Nene Pimentel and incumbent Senate President Frank Drilon, Gen. Rene de Villa, the Makati Business Club, Ateneo, La Salle, et al., he is also resigning with the poignancy of a recantation.

The Office of the Ombudsman is one of the most corrupt in government today, thanks to Aniano Desierto, the deliberate choice of former President Ramos, Joe Almonte and Tony Carpio for Ombudsman. His mission: to protect Tabako. Marcelo has not really been able to make any difference: we will soon be No. 1 in corruption worldwide. The names of some of those wanting to succeed him can make you throw up, indicating their very low regard for the debased office and the appointment process.

Marcelo might have meant well, but corruption has risen to stratospheric heights during his watch.

—RAV SAGUISAG,
4045 Bigasan St.,
Palanan, Makati City

Safety clause on emergency powers

THIS IS IN REACTION TO FR. Joaquin Bernas' column titled "Temporary State takeover of businesses." (PDI, 10/17/05) I firmly agree that the State should as much as possible avoid taking over private businesses because "*gagawin lang itong gatasan ng mga gahamang pulitiko* (these would just be made milking cows by greedy politicians)." Nevertheless, I disagree with his suggestion that Section 17, Art. 12 must go in case the Constitution undergoes a revision.

Section 17 should just be amended to include a safety clause providing that once the President declares a state of emergency and decides to take over privately owned public utilities or businesses, "he or she must, within 48 hours from the proclamation of such emergency, submit a report in person or in writing to the Congress. The Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President. In case Congress allows the takeover, it may, at any time it deems appropriate, direct the President to stop the takeover and return the business(es) to the owners, and such order shall not be set aside by the President."

I am no lawyer and anyone may improve the wording of my suggested provision, the first sentence of which I just copied from the existing law. I am amenable to a state takeover of privately owned public utilities or businesses during a state of emergency if the survival of the State calls for it. Just imagine if we are at war with "Timbuktu" and IPP-A will refuse to sell us electricity because IPP-A owner is from "Timbuktu." Or, perhaps, employees of public utility firms refuse to report to work because of chaos in the streets. Such situations could grind Metro Manila to a halt, and with Section 17, Art. 12 scrapped, we would be helpless.

The "safety clause" will allow Congress to do more effectively its duty under the principle of check and balance. Perhaps, Congress can also enact a law banning officials of these companies from receiving any form of salary, bonus, perks, incentives, etc. from subject firms. Whatever they receive should come from the government. They cannot even review or enter into any contract for and on behalf of the company. Lastly, any contract signed within the takeover period shall be considered null and void *ab initio*. I recognize that the State needs Section 17, Art. 12 in times of emergency.

I can only hope that the highly regarded and influential Father Bernas reconsider his position and instead craft specific limitations to prevent government from abusing it.

—NILO AGIR,
ncagir@yahoo.com

Sort out the numbers in power cost

THIS IS REGARDING THE LETTER of Rufino G. Villafuerte of TransCo. (PDI, 10/4/05) on the "glaring inaccuracy in Meralco's radio and TV commercials." We have raised this concern before the Energy Regulatory Commission and the media outlets where the inaccurate ads and spots came out.

This was the subject of the exchange of letters between the National Association of Electric Consumers and Meralco in the INQUIRER, the first round in October, 2003 (at the time of the P30-billion overcharge refund); the second in June 2005, when the ads in question came out.

With the ERC, our concern was the source of the funds Meralco used to pay for the misleading and inaccurate ads. The ERC should not allow this kind of advertising as a pass-on cost. Unfortunately, the ERC, through lawyer Fructouso C. Lagunzad Jr., ruled that such expense is recoverable. He also said that the "ERC is not authorized to evaluate and approve the advertising and information materials."

It is indeed tragic for Meralco's captive customers that the ERC allows Meralco to burden them with the costs of misleading ads and yet refuses to evaluate for them the advertising content.

With Meralco, the issue is: Why bundle the transmission and generation charges when comparing the costs of Meralco IPPs and those of the National Power Corp.?

Meralco's Elpi Cuna, responding to a column item in another paper, claimed Napocor's generation cost for March 2005 was P5.6943, "inclusive of the P1.55 per kWh transmission-related costs"; thus it was allegedly higher than the "P5.40 of Quezon Power, P4.80 for Sta. Rita and P5.29 for San Lorenzo"—all of which are Meralco IPPs.

Meralco's Ivanna G. Dela Peña, on the other hand, in a letter dated Sept. 28, 2005, cited their February 2005 generation charge as follows: Napocor—P4 per kWh; Meralco IPP—P4.3247 per kWh. Average generation cost for March 2005, she wrote, was P4.1767 per kWh, still higher by P0.0324 per kWh than our assumed Napocor cost, using Cuna's figures (P5.6943 - P1.55 = P4.1443).

Meralco should not "bundle" or combine transmission-related costs and generation charges. That is regressive and contrary to the spirit of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira). Using the unbundled cost, Meralco should buy the cheaper power as Epira directs.

Moreover, Meralco and TransCo should reconcile their figures: if TransCo's share of the P0.8354 per kWh transmission charge is only P0.6335 per kWh as claimed by Villafuerte, where did Cuna get the P1.55 per kWh "transmission-related" charge he imputes and adds to the Napocor generation charge? How much does Meralco charge us for transmission?

It is indeed time for somebody to call all these players together, sort out these numbers, to arrive at the true cost of power.

—PETE L. ILAGAN,
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Workers insist on ₱125 wage hike

BACOLOD CITY—LABOR GROUPS IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to show her sincerity in calling for a legislated wage increase by certifying as urgent the House bill seeking a P125 across-the-board wage hike.

The call was made by Roy Cordova, spokesperson of the Wage Increase Solidarity-Negros, and Felipe Levi Gelle, Bayan Negros secretary general.

Cordova called on labor groups to unite behind the P125 wage increase proposal.

But leaders of business groups preferred the regional wage boards to decide the issue.

Roberto Montelibano, Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said the regional board should take into account the economic capabilities of the sugar industry.

James Chua, president of the Bacolod Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said regional boards should settle the issue because living standards varied from region to region.

Carlos Boteros, labor department director for Western Visayas, does not believe that now is the time to raise the minimum wage, saying that 25 percent of companies in the region still had not complied with last June's wage order increasing wages by P15 a day.

Boteros also said it was within Congress' powers to grant a legislated wage increase.

In Cebu City, the chair of the House Committee on Labor vowed to defend the P125 across-the-board wage increase bill during the continuation of their deliberation despite opposition from businessmen across the country.

Rep. Roseller Barinaga of Zamboanga del Norte, in an interview over dyLA in Cebu City yesterday, was also asking President Arroyo to certify the wage increase bill as urgent.

"There's a big chance for the passage of the bill after the President ordered Congress to enact a reasonable minimum wage law. But we are going to request that the President certify the bill as urgent too," Barinaga said.

The bill is still up for second reading and the amount could still be changed during the amendment period but since the P125 wage hike was demanded by different labor groups five years ago, Barinaga said he would stick to that amount.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco said he would propose during the amendment at least a 25-percent increase over and above of the current minimum wage in the different regions.

Cuenco said a 25-percent increase based on the current minimum wage is the reasonable amount for workers and protect the interest of the management sector.

Barinaga also dismissed accusations they were using the wage issue to grandstand.

"Maybe some congressmen are using this issue for grandstanding, but in our part, it is not true. How could we be accused of politicking when this amount was being discussed since five years ago?" he said.

"Our only intention here is [for] Congress [to] be responsive to the plight of our working people," he added.

Barinaga said the P125-across-the-board wage increase could not even give Metro Manila workers their ideal minimum wage.

He said that a study conducted by the National Wages and Productivity Commission showed that the ideal daily income of a breadwinner in the family should be P681.

Manila workers are currently receiving P325 a day, so if the P125 increase is granted, it would only mean a P450 daily minimum wage for them.

He said he also believed the businessmen who warned that several businesses would close if a wage hike was granted because studies had shown that companies stopped operations or transferred to other countries because of the general economic problem of the country, the high cost of electricity and fuel and poor infrastructure. *Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Solon asks Congress to prioritize wage hike

LUCENA CITY—Anakpawis Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran urged Congress to prioritize the wage hike bill during the resumption of today's session.

Beltran stressed that House Speaker Jose De Venecia should not ignore the urgency of the issue and order the immediate deliberation of the P125 wage hike proposal contained in HB 345, which is up for interpellation by the congressional body.

"There is no way around it. Congress must ... assume jurisdiction over the wage hike issue and the overall determination of minimum wage levels all over the country," he said in a statement.

He noted that more than 10 years under the authority of the regional wage boards had shown that it was really Congress that should determine wage hikes and minimum wages.

"The regional wage boards are institutions that actually kill wage hike demands from workers and take primary consideration of employer and big business interests," Beltran said.

Beltran also stressed that wage increases and tax exemptions should also go together.

He assailed the stand of five senators that had declared opposition against legislated wage hikes.

Beltran said the opposition of Senators Sergio Osmeña III, Ralph Recto, Mar Roxas, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Richard Gordon against any involvement of Congress in setting the minimum wage for labor was tantamount to betrayal of Filipino workers. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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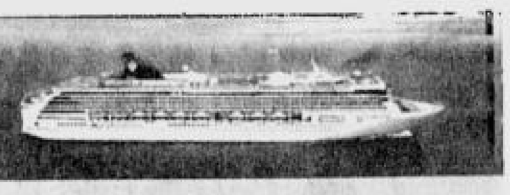

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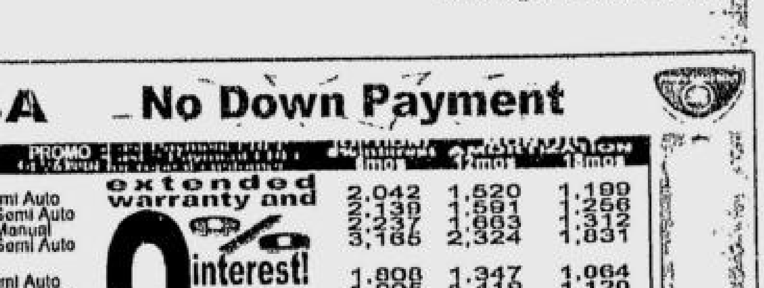

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SBMA loses P1.7M to thieves

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—ROBBERS STOLE AT least P1.7 million from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) treasury department's vault on Oct. 31.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said the SBMA's cashiers discovered the heist on Tuesday when they reported for work at Building 229.

"It could have been done by insiders," Arreza said.

He said the money was kept at the SBMA treasury during the holidays because this was their arrangement with the Land Bank of the Philippines. The amount was the agency's collection on Oct. 28, he said.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga has placed some employees suspected of being involved in the robbery incident under "protective suspension" while investigation is ongoing. He did not name the employees.

Arreza said Jose Calimlim, SBMA vice president for operations and head of the intelligence and investigation division, is leading the investigation.

Salonga said the incident could be "a conspiracy to embarrass SBMA officials."

Salonga and Arreza took over the helm of the SBMA in September.

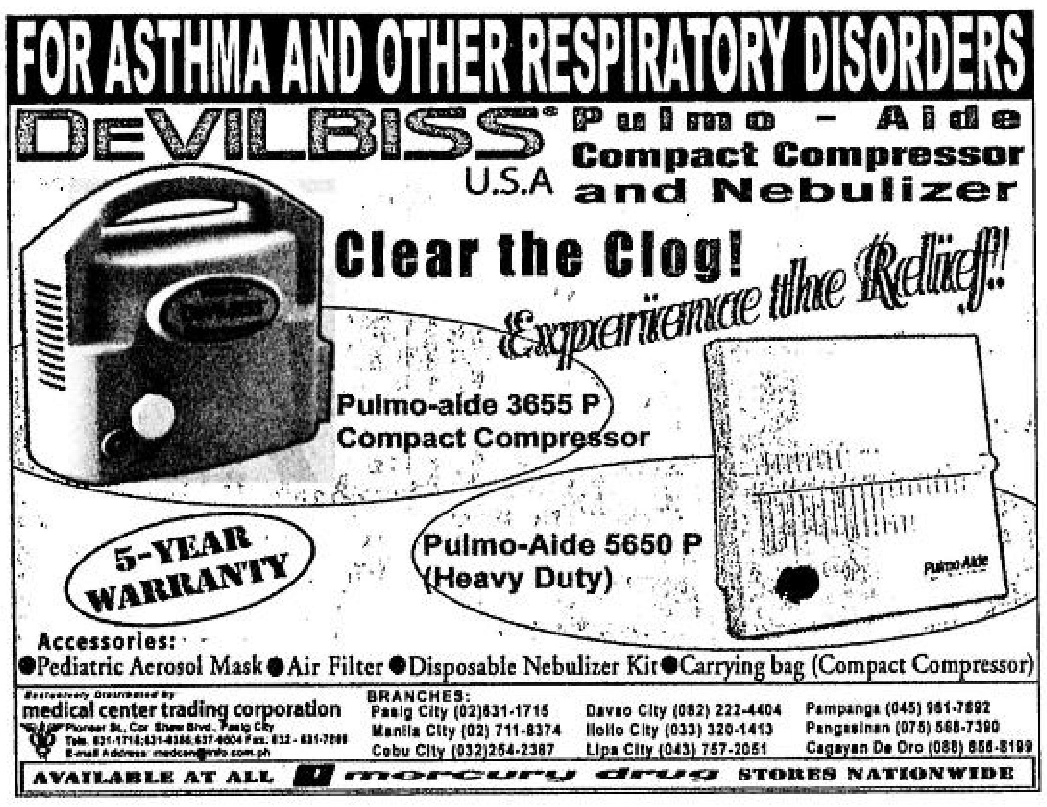
Arreza said he would review the internal control procedures of the SBMA's finance department so lapses would be addressed.

An SBMA source said at least seven people have access to the combination of the vault.

Another source said the SBMA vault robbery and at least six other incidents in the freeport since Oct. 10 "looked more like attempts by some people to make the SBMA look bad."

"The vault is located inside the treasury office which is just a step across the information desk of Building 229 manned by security officers 24 hours a day and which even has a closed-circuit television camera installed," the source said.

"There was no sign of forcible entry and it looks more like an inside job," the source added. *Patrick Roxas and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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SAMBUOKAN FESTIVAL
Students of Gov. Generoso town in Davao Oriental show their wares at the Sambuokan Festival held Oct. 29 in Mati town, which also celebrated its 102nd Foundation Day. NICO ALCONABA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Cotabato mining operations monitored for explosives

KORONADAL CITY—THE POLICE provincial command has ordered strict monitoring of explosives as well as mining operations in the gold-rich Kematu village in T'boli town, South Cotabato following the seizure of blasting caps from a miner on Thursday.

Senior Supt. Getulio Napeñas, South Cotabato provincial police chief, issued the order Friday to the town police chief of T'boli.

Napeñas told reporters that he issued the order in the wake of reports that small-scale miners operating in the mountain of Kematu are keeping explosives for future use.

Members of the Provincial Police Mobile Group (PPMG) and the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion seized 275 "commercial blasting caps" from a certain Ernesto Rico, a laborer of Gold Mine Tunnel in Kematu.

Rico, a resident of the area, was on his way to the mining area when he was intercepted by the law enforcers in Sitio Tunnel, also part of Kematu, around 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Napeñas said he also directed the T'boli police to strictly monitor the activities of small-scale miners in Kematu and take appropriate action in case it was confirmed they were using explosives in their operation.

He said he did not want a repeat of the tragedy in Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley where at least 17 mine workers were killed when an explosion took place inside the tunnel owned by JB Mining and Management Corp.

He asked tunnel operators and mine workers in Kematu to give up their explosives to avoid untoward incidents in the area. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

719 Bicol co-ops generate P2.1B in pooled resources

NAGA CITY—THE COOPERATIVES in Bicol, with at least 175,000 combined membership, have registered a total of P2.1-billion in pooled resources this year, according to the chair of the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

Addressing the first regional congress of cooperatives here last week, CDA chair Lecira Juarez commended the role of the 719 Bicol cooperatives that provided credit access to farmers and fishermen and their dependents.

"Whenever traditional financial institutions have failed to provide the much-needed credit in the far-flung areas, the cooperatives are there to provide their needs," Juarez added.

The P2.1-billion pooled resources of the cooperatives are translated into hectares of lands made productive, food on the table and millions of lives touched and served, she said.

Juarez explained that the cooperatives had provided an alternative in the fight against poverty and generated forced savings from members in the amount of P1.4 billion and capital resources worth P700 million.

The CDA chair advocated the "consolidation and merger" of cooperatives that, she said, "will pave the way for adopting the best tools and systems" to run the cooperatives as enterprises.

Juarez said the cooperatives are now required to adopt a performance standard for evaluation and monitoring. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fire razes houses in Cebu

CEBU CITY—ALMOST 100 houses, lodging houses and apartments were razed in a one-hour fire that hit a densely populated area in Barangay Pahina Central here on Saturday night.

The area is just 100 meters away from the Cebu City Fire Department but fire investigator SFO1 Frank Donoso admitted that they failed to immediately respond to the fire because of lack of access road to the fire scene.

The fire started at the two-story house of university professor Ernesto Agapay in Sitio Santo Niño at around 6:08 p.m., Donoso said quoting witnesses.

The damage to properties was estimated at P3.2 million, Donoso said.

"Initially, we are investigating on allegation by the witnesses that the fire was caused by a lighted kerosene left in the house," Donoso said.

Donoso said Agapay, who was at the University of Cebu when the fire occurred, denied leaving the house with a lighted kerosene lamp.

A certain Ronald Cubacob, 21, was also injured in his left foot by a broken glass.

The fire destroyed 90 residential houses and three lodging houses and partially damaged three apartments and seven stalls at the nearby Cebu South Bus Terminal. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

2 killed in bus, train accidents

LUCENA CITY—A 10-YEAR-OLD boy was killed by a passenger bus along the Maharlika Highway, while a drunken old man was run over by a speeding train, police reports said.

The bus accident victim was identified as Lorenzo D. Ayapana, resident of Barangay Pinagbayanan, Pagbilao town.

A police report said a Barney Auto Lines bus bearing plate number DVH-644 and driven by Rodel B. Mascariñas, hit the boy while it was cruising the highway on Saturday morning.

The kid was declared dead on arrival at the nearest hospital. The suspect was detained at the Pagbilao municipal jail.

Meanwhile, the train victim was identified as Edgardo Anzona, 60.

Another report said the victim was walking along the railway track in Barangay Campo, Padre Burgos on his way home from a drinking spree late Thursday evening, when he was bumped by the Manila-bound train, which killed him on the spot. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Zambales folk excited over small drugstores

By Patrick Roxas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IBA, ZAMBALES—A PROJECT THAT will put up a small community pharmacy in every barangay in the province to provide residents access to cheap medicines has generated unexpected interest among Zambaleños.

The "Botika Natin sa Nayon," which is organized, owned and managed by at least 10 members from different families in each barangay, has put up 17 outlets in Subic town and eight in Masinloc town in just two months after its launching.

Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II, one of the project's proponents, said they were planning to establish at least 200 outlets in Zambales and Olongapo City.

The project is being undertaken in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Zambales War Against Poverty (Zwap) Foundation Inc. and through funds provided by the priority development assistance funds of Senators Edgardo Angara and Francis Pangilinan.

Lacbain said 10 members from different families compose and manage a Botika Natin outlet in a community. Each member contributes P100, which they give to the Zwap as their capital share.

Hard work

"We want to inculcate among our people the value of hard work instead of promoting a doleout mentality," he said.

He said the foundation issues an official receipt for the capital share it receives from Botika Natin members.

"In return, the foundation gives each team of 10 members P3,000 worth of generic medicines that they sell to the community at low prices," he said.

"Presyong himala (miracle price)" was how Lacbain described the prices of the medicines.

He said a paracetamol tablet that sells for P2 to P8 in the town proper sells for 50 centavos at the Botika Natin outlets while a bottle of multivitamins, which sells for P100 to P120 in drugstores, sells for P43.

He said these outlets serve the community 24 hours daily and provide livelihood training for members of the family.

"The Botika Natin is definitely not for profit but for service and we tell the team members that this is also an opportunity for them to help others despite their being poor," Lacbain said.

More Visayan OFWs leaving

CEBU CITY—HARD times have forced thousands of people from Central Visayas to seek greener pasture in other countries.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration regional office said the number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from the region went up by 15 percent from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 compared to the same period last year.

"The trend (of Central Visayans leaving the country) is increasing and our deployment record can attest to that," said Evelia Dorato, POEA acting regional chief.

The difficulty of living in the country is one of the reasons many people are trying their luck in other countries.

Dorato said wages were not enough to sustain their daily needs.

Others decided to work abroad because their income was not enough to buy houses and lots.

POEA records showed that 15,444 workers departed from the Mactan Cebu International Airport from January to October.

The January-September figures of POEA showed that 14,161 OFWs, more than the 12,613 OFWs recorded over the same period last year, Donato said.

The workers who left came from Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

The POEA records showed that the Middle East was the top destination of the OFWs, followed by Asia, Europe and America.

Lebanon topped the list of countries in the Middle East where the OFWs went to work. Most of them went to Lebanon to work as domestic helpers.

Next to Lebanon was the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, where most of the OFWs are skilled or construction workers.

In Asia, most of the OFWs went to Hong Kong and Singapore where many work as domestic helpers.

In Europe, many of the OFWs went to Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom to work as nurses, household workers and caregivers.

Those who left for the United States and Canada were contracted to work as caregivers and nurses. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Antiterror training

COTABATO CITY—City police chief Senior Supt. Faisal Umpa is the only policeman from Mindanao chosen to join four colleagues from Luzon for a month-long schooling on new techniques in combating terrorism. The training, sponsored by the US government, starts Nov. 20 in Bangkok, Thailand. Umpa said the training was significant since the government joined other nations in the US-led global fight against terrorism.

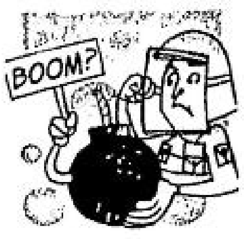
Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 dead in collision

DIFFUN, Quirino—Two men were killed while two others were hurt on Nov. 2 when an Isuzu pick-up truck collided with a tricycle in Barangay Diego Silang here. Police identified the fatalities as Abraham Bernardo and Jeremiah Flaure, both from Aurora, Isabela. Reports said the victims were on their way home on a tricycle when the truck, driven by Wilfredo Malvar, hit their vehicle. The road was slippery due to strong rains, police said.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bomb threat hoax



CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Some 100 golfers, caddies and employees rushed out of the clubhouse of the Mimosa Golf and Country Club at about 11 a.m. Thursday after two employees received text messages informing them of a bomb that was supposedly set to explode in the premises. Ivy Angeles, a membership attendant, said she received the text message at 10:30 a.m. It was sent through mobile phone 0918-5744468. Don Salgado, Mimosa administrative manager, said a Philippine Air Force ordnance and explosives team searched for bombs in the area but failed to find any bomb and declared the threat a hoax.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Mentally ill man slain

ROXAS CITY—Police on Monday shot dead a mentally ill man who hacked dead his uncle and wounded another person in Sitio Tuburan, Barangay Bergante in Mambusao town, Capiz. Wildredo Laña, 45, was wounded in the neck while his nephew Medel, 23, died from bullet wounds in different parts of the body. Police said Medel hacked his uncle with a bolo inside the victim's home in Sitio Tuburan. SPO4 Filemon Guillen Jr. and his men responded to the call for help by Wilfredo's wife Tessie. Bernardo Villa was guiding the police in a dimly lit area when Medel hacked him in the leg, prompting Guillen to shoot Medel.

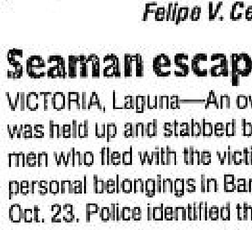
Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Seaman escapes death

VICTORIA, Laguna—An overseas Filipino worker was held up and stabbed by four unidentified armed men who fled with the victim's car, P10,000 cash and personal belongings in Barangay Masapang here on Oct. 23. Police identified the victim as Alberto B. Cabrera, 29, a seaman from Libmanan, Camarines Sur who now resides in Muñoz Street, Pasay City. A police report said that at about 1:30 p.m., the victim was driving his Mitsubishi Lancer along the national highway in Masapang when four men stopped him, took his car, money and one unit of Nokia 8890 mobile phone, and sped off toward Manila. The victim tried to fight back but was stabbed by the robbers.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

School gets computer



PAGBILAO, Quezon—Students at the Pagbilao Central Elementary School here on Oct. 28 received P250,000 worth of educational equipment from IBM Philippines' "KidSmart Early Learning Program" in cooperation with EduQuest Inc. and Mirant Pagbilao Corp. The equipment included a personal computer with a complete Young Explorer CD set and Little Tikes furniture set.

Dellin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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VAT EFFECTS

No hike in prices in W. Visayas—DTI

BACOLOD CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry in Western Visayas (DTI-6) has not monitored any significant increase in the prices of manufactured goods in the region since the expanded value-added tax (VAT) was implemented last Tuesday.

Dominic Abad, DTI regional director, said the agency's monitoring activities showed no significant price increases in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras and Negros Occidental.

The only price increases noted were in one brand of evaporated milk and a brand of instant coffee in Iloilo that did not appear to have been triggered by the VAT, Abad said.

Still, the trade official urged consumers to be vigilant and report excessive increases so that investigations could be conducted.

He said the DTI would penalize firms found to be jacking up their prices by 10 percent or more without any valid reason.

"So far, however, manufacturers have kept their word and absorbed the VAT, and we are hoping that there will be no increases in prices of basic goods," Abad said.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-Visayas said prices of basic commodities were expected to go up because of the adjustment in the prices of fuel products and power due to the VAT implementation.

"It cannot be denied by every thinking individual that the production and transport to deliver the goods to the market and to the consumers are dependent on energy and electric power, it said.

The bulk of the complaints since the VAT implementation have been the high increase in the price of fuel and fears of a rise in electricity rates. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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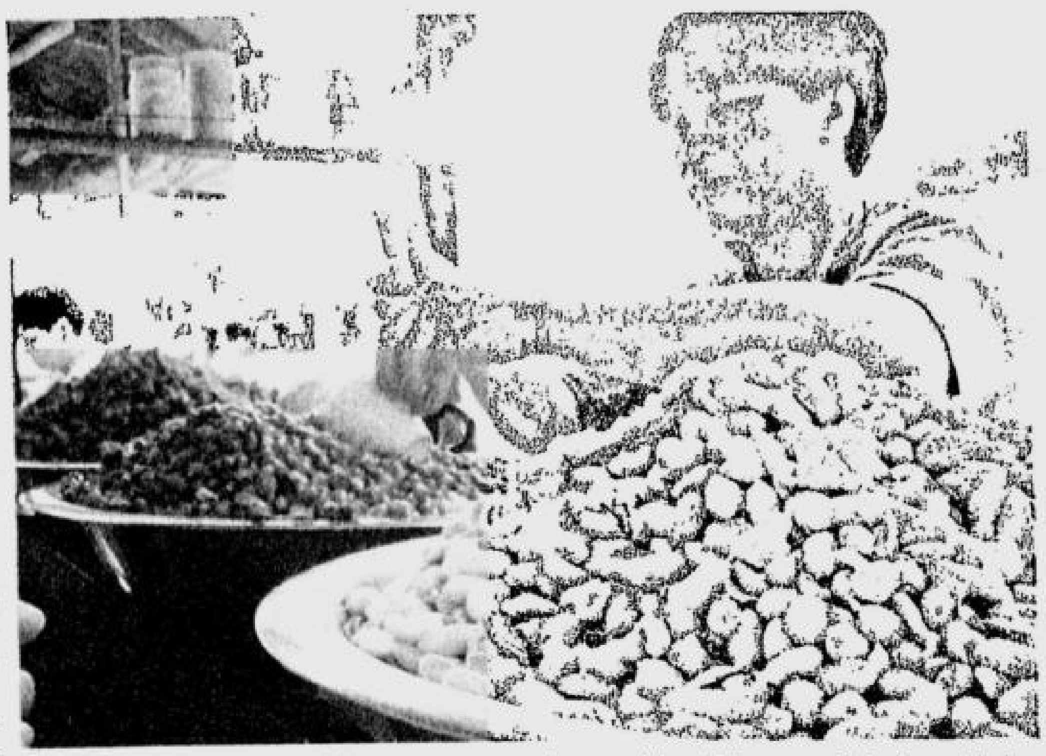

A VENDOR continues to sell her wares even as she complains of the expanded value-added tax that she predicts will make her even poorer. ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Lomibao orders arrest of Lanao Sur attackers

COTABATO CITY—NATIONAL POLICE DIRECtor General Arturo Lomibao on Wednesday ordered the immediate arrest of persons involved in the Oct. 31 ambush in Malabang, Lanao del Sur that killed seven people, including a top-ranking police officer and a town official.

Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, ARMM police director, told the INQUIRER by phone, that Lomibao also directed them to speed up their investigation to prevent the incident from developing into a full-blown hostility between the parties concerned.

Mamalinta admitted that those involved were prominent people, but he declined to identify any suspects.

"We have already identified the culprits in the attack, but we will release their names later," Mamalinta said.

Insp. Diva Ibrahim, Malabang town police chief, said members of the Macugar and Blat clans were involved in the incident.

Killed on Monday were Tuburan (Lanao del Sur) police chief SPO4 Kurais Tambugao, Tuburan Association of Barangay Chairmen president Mitbak Sangbaan, Amerudin, Tato, and Abdillah, all surnamed Tambugao, a certain Allan Patandaya and militiaman Latip Bato.

The victims were heading home after attending a graduation ceremony for militiamen held at Camp SK Pendatun, the main headquarters of the ARMM police, in Parang, Maguindanao when they were ambushed.

When they reached Barangay Mabel in Malabang, they were fired upon from both sides of the highway at around 2:30 p.m. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 2668 Series of 2005

Cebu, Panay groups split on fare hikes

By Jhunnex Napallacan, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE IMPLEMENTation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax (VAT) Law will further erode the meager income of drivers of public utilities but transport groups in Cebu and Panay Island are split on asking for a new round of fare increases.

Cebu-based Nagkahiusang Draybers sa Sugbo (Nadsu) wants a P1.50 increase in minimum fare from P6 to P7.50.

The Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association (MCTOA) will also seek a P15 adjustment in flag-down rate from the present P30.

But the Pinag-isang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) on Panay Island would rather push for a rollback on oil prices and the scrapping of the VAT than ask for another round of fare increase.

Anthony Pogado, chair of the 6,000-strong Nadsu, said the drivers in Cebu should enjoy the same fare rate like their counterparts in Manila following the implementation of the VAT.

Small

He described as "too small" the P1 adjustment in the minimum fare granted by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), which brought to P6 the rate for the first 5 km.

Pogado said they found it unfair that their counterparts in Manila received a P2.50-adjustment when they all suffer the same difficulties brought about by the fuel rate increases.

Richard Cabucos, MCTOA president, said his group would file a petition to increase the flag-down rate by P15.

But he added they would lodge their petition, as soon as similar petitions filed by Metro Manila-based Association of Taxi Operators in Metro Manila (Atomm) and the Philippine Taxi Operators Association (PTOA) would be granted.

Petitions

If the Atomm and PTOA petitions are denied, he added, he expected many of the operators in Cebu to stop their operation because the drivers would not be able to pay for the unit rental ranging from P500 to P600 due to high prices of fuel.

Like the jeepney drivers, Cabucos said the taxi drivers should be able to make at least P2,000 a day, so that they have something to bring home to their families.

Jeepney and taxi drivers usually spend at least P1,000 in fuel during the 14-hour shift. They also have to set aside at least P400 to pay for the unit rental.

But Jun Abellon, Piston spokesperson in Panay, said the root cause of the spiraling fuel prices was the Oil Deregulation Law and the various taxes imposed by the government like the VAT.

Futile

"A fare increase would be futile if oil prices kept on increasing," he said in a telephone interview.

He said the implementation of the law, which imposes a 10-percent tax on oil products and other previously VAT-exempted commodities and services, would increase the price of diesel by at least 25 centavos per liter even with the rollback of prices implemented by oil companies.

This would result to a decrease in income of jeepney drivers by around P100 per month. Jeepney drivers in Iloilo earn an average of P180 to P200 in their trips, which average 20 trips per month.

But he pointed out that aside from increase in oil prices, the price of spare parts and the daily rental of jeepneys will also increase.

Useless

Abellon said the P2-fare increase implemented in Western Visayas this year has been eroded by the almost weekly increases in oil prices and the implementation of VAT.

In Eastern Visayas, militant groups renewed their call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo for implementing the VAT.

Rey Enales, Freedom from Debt Coalition secretary general in the region, said the FDC and other groups in Eastern Visayas planned to stage protest actions against the President, as the VAT implementation only gave the Filipino people another reason to seek the President's ouster.

Wilson Uy, member of the Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board of Directors, said that while he understood that VAT was needed to raise revenues for the cash-strapped government, its "domino effect" on prices of basic commodities could not be discounted.

Cyanide blamed for Albay fish kills

LEGAZPI CITY—VILLAGERS LIVING NEAR the premises of Lafayette Mining Corp. in Rapu-Rapu, Albay have claimed that cyanide found in mine tailings that spilled when the company's pump malfunctioned on Oct. 11 caused fish kills in their area since last week.

Jon Sarmiento of the environmental group Alamin said the fish kills on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 had angered the residents.

Jun Narvaez, Bicol area manager of Tanggol Kalikasan, said that when the tailings pump of the multibillion-peso Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project failed, tailing materials spilled from an emergency pond of the mill into the surrounding mill site, including the supposed fully protected "immediate drainage."

Rey Juan, Mines and Geosciences Bureau regional technical director, said an MGB team had already checked the situation and made sure that mitigating measures had been undertaken by Lafayette.

The damage and threat had been contained, he said.

Overflow

But Juan said he had received a report that the tailings pond overflowed again due to continuous rains on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. He sent another team to investigate the matter.

"The cyanide content of the tailings pond is indeed heavy, so I immediately dispatched a team at the Binosawan area where the spill took place," Juan said.

He said he expected the team to submit its report today.

Inaccurate

Rapu-Rapu Councilor Eric de la Paz claimed that the MGB findings were inaccurate since several fish kills had already occurred in the villages of Binosawan, Pagcolbon and Malobago since the tailings pond overflowed.

"Right now, the majority of us in the Sangguniang Bayan are unanimous in passing a resolution to stop the mining operations and declare null and void the proclamation of the area as a special economic zone in Bicol," De la Paz said.

He said the council was closely coordinating with concerned sectors and "feel grateful for the initiative of the local parish headed by Fr. Felino Bugawisan in mobilizing the people of these barangays."

Measures

Narvaez confirmed that based on the inspection of their team in Rapu-Rapu, Lafayette had taken measures to contain the effects of the overflow.

He said Lafayette's technicians had immediately removed the dead fish.

Lafayette refused to comment on the issue, saying it stood firm on the findings of the MGB.

On Oct. 22, the bureau said the tailings spill was confined within the mine site, only about two kilos of marine organisms affected by the cyanide were gathered during the first day, and that toxic waste soon dissipated to standard level. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Negros farmers get incentives to plant coconut

DUMAGUETE CITY—WITH THE EXPECTED tremendous growth of demand for coconut due to the growing popularity of virgin coconut oil and other by-products, the provincial government and the Philippine Coconut Authority will implement a plant-now-pay-later program to encourage farmers to plant coconuts.

PCA provincial manager Brendan Trasmonte said the provincial government had allocated some P1 million for the project. The PCA will handle the technical aspect of the program.

Trasmonte said that under the plan, farmers would be initially provided seedlings of early-bearing dwarf coconuts. The open-pollinated, synthetic, *tacunan* and *catigan* varieties can bear nuts in four to five years, he said.

Target

He said the program was open to farmers with one-half hectare to five hectares of land.

Trasmonte said the program would target some 40,000 ha of the 52,460 ha of land devoted to coconut plantations in the province.

Trasmonte said a new company was constructing a VCO processing plant in Bacong, a town 6 km south of here.

Seven other individuals in Oriental Negros are involved in VCO production and a small sized processing plant operating in Valencia town, he said. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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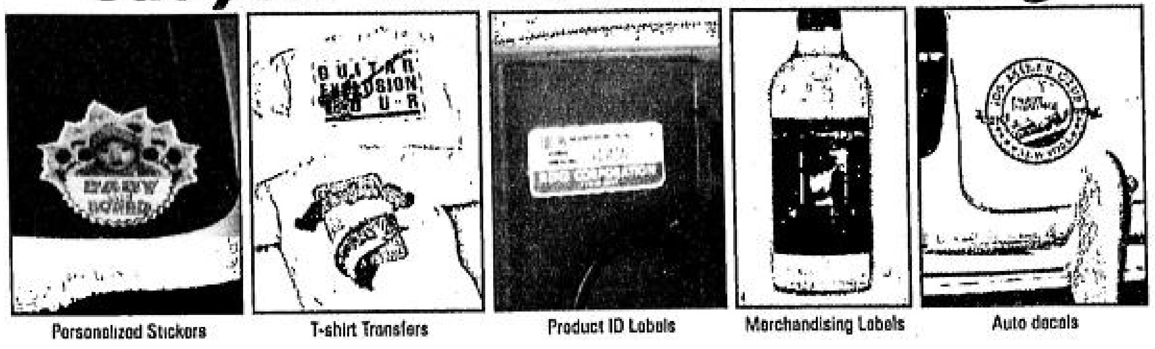

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Brisbane	965	1845
Perth	855	1635
Melbourne	885	1685
Sydney	995	1895
Auckland	1185	2265
Rome	1415	2215
Frankfurt	1415	2215
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New RP biodiversity poster creature: Giant fruit bat

From page A1

of nature, the Haribon Foundation has launched the GuBAT Learning Center, a joint project with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the US Peace Corps.

The center is an interactive and multimedia museum housed in a one-story building on the outskirts of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Here, visitors can learn about the unique flora and fauna of the Philippines, especially the bat, as well as its role in the ecosystem.

Bats preserve forests

Haribon chose to highlight its message using giant fruit bats, which locals call "*bayakan*," because of their role in preserving the remaining lowland forests, said Mary Ann Leones, the center's communications chief.

Leones admits that bats are not among the most loved creatures. "It might take some time before people can relate to Haribon's message because of their aversion to bats," she says.

Their furry brown bodies, creepy-looking wings reminiscent of the local horror character "*manananggal*," and high-pitched sounds do not make them popular.

They are not among the world's "charismatic megafauna," a term used to describe animals that people "like," give protection to and funding. Examples are the wolves of North America and the giant pandas of China or, locally, the graceful Philippine eagles and the elusive tamaraws.

While the center has no plans to elevate bats to the level of koalas, it still hopes to boost awareness about bats found in Subic, their habitat and behavior, and the ways to preserve their reduced numbers.

Dwindling population

More than 100,000 fruit bats used to roost in Subic's lush forests a few decades ago, but today, only a few thousand remain, Leones said during a media tour of bat-roosting areas in Subic on Saturday.

"There are two types of bats—the fruit bats and the insect-eating ones. The first are seed-dispersing agents of the forests. Pollen and grain fall from their bodies as they forage for food at night. The second help control the insect population," Leones says.

Of the many species of bats in the Philippines, the giant fruit bat and its constant companion, the golden-crowned flying fox (*Acerodon jubatus*), are the focus of the center's campaign.

The giant fruit bat, also known as large flying fox, and the golden-crowned flying fox are called such because they resemble the fox with their large eyes, long snout and ears.

Unlike their insect-eating counterparts, flying foxes rely mostly on their keen sense of smell to find fruit trees. They do not need navigational aids like echolocation, which is done by sending out pulses of high frequency sounds and processing the waves that echo back.

The giant fruit bat can attain a wingspan of 1.5 to 2 meters, and is distinguished by black or reddish-brown fur covering its forehead, neck, shoulders and back. The golden-crowned flying fox can weigh up to two kilograms, and is recognizable through its yellow "cap."

Loss of habitat

The two species roost together on tree branches, hanging upside down by their hind feet, and wrapping their wings around their bodies. Seen at daylight from busy Zambales Highway on the slopes of Subic, they look like clumps of overripe fruit about to fall.

But when night falls and blossoms open, they come alive, circling the towering trees, soaring by the thousands across the Subic skyline, while foraging for food—a sight that "can be quite spectacular," according to the SBMA Tourism Department.

The bats travel a distance of up to 50 km, spreading seeds and pollen as they feed.

Their nightly exodus also leaves them vulnerable to hunters who catch them for food, Leones says.

But the single biggest threat to the survival of bats is still the loss of habitat because of illegal logging and the denudation of forests, she says.

Less than 20 percent of the country's forest cover remains, she says. A study has found that a country needs at least 54 percent of forest cover to ensure a stable life support system.

Bibles nurture hopes of poor

From page A1

hoping to address, by distributing 3,700 Ilaw sa Tahanan Bibles in Baseco last month.

The Ilaw sa Tahanan is a Tagalog version of the Bible tailored for the Filipino family. It has tips on how to deal with angry children and jealous spouses and how to cope with losing a job or a spouse. It even has some things to say about paying taxes, settling debts and dealing with the government.

The solution, according to the Bible, is simple: Trust in God.

First light

Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want … ") is highlighted for the provision, protection, prosperity and presence that comes from a relationship with God.

Adoracion Ubaldo, 38, explained what the psalm meant to her: "The Lord is our hope. He is the only one who knows his plans for us amid poverty. Every day, I ask him, 'What do you want me to do today?'"

Ubaldo, who has four children and whose husband is unemployed, takes in laundry to put food on the table. She received her first copy of the Bible last month and would read it in the morning, at first light.

Many houses in Baseco's 18 blocks have no access to electricity because they cannot afford the P20-per-kilowatt charged by the suppliers inside the 54-hectare compound.

Learning to forgive

Julieta Maico, 31, is struggling to bring back the trust and love she lost in her marriage when her husband left her and their five children last year.

Her mother—her only adviser and friend—died around the same time and so soon after her grandfather was killed in a fire that left 12,000 families in Baseco homeless.

Feeling very alone, Maico wanted to commit suicide. Instead, she pulled herself together for the children's sake.

Her husband returned to the family, but Maico remained bitter. She said she was counting on prayer to help her forgive him. She had also been reading the Ilaw sa Tahanan Bible and urging her children to believe in God.

Be thankful

"When hardship comes, pray that you can overcome it. When you have no gas for cooking, be thankful that your kids are not sick," Maico said.

While their daily intake of soul food does nothing for their empty stomachs, it has kept them going with renewed hope and joy.

"We need to have communication with the One up there because He is the source of peace of mind. That's what we need," Emelita Domo, 48, said.

In a place the outside world has written off as the birthplace and refuge of criminals, peace of mind is hard to find.

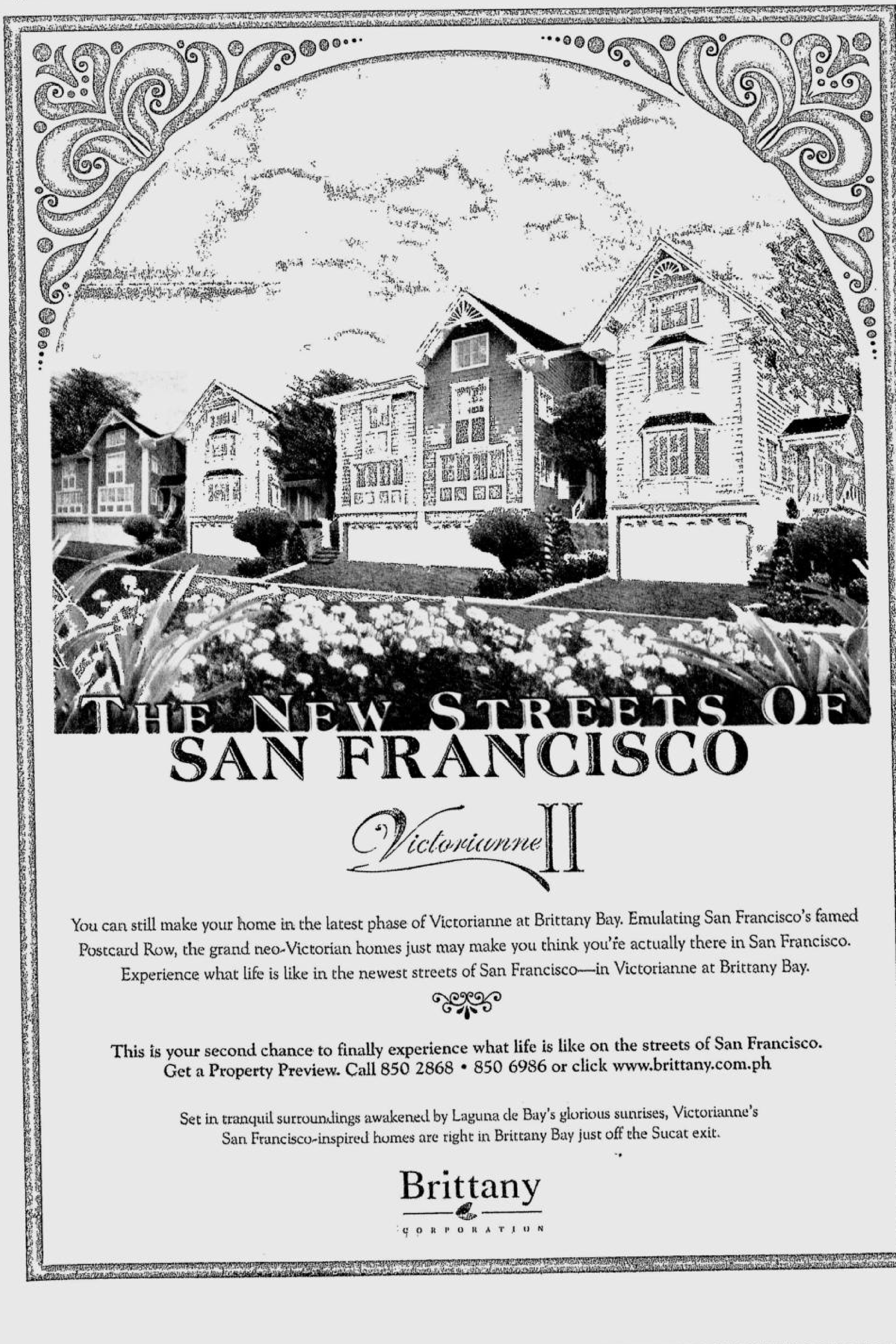
God gives strength

Domo and her husband just moved to Baseco. Their seven children have abandoned them, but not before they wasted away the money she and her husband saved after almost a decade of working in Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait.

She got her first Bible when she was in Kuwait, but she never read it. She only turned to God after her fourth son was killed in an ambush in Laguna.

Ubaldo invited Domo to join her at a church service a few weeks ago and had lent her the Ilaw sa Tahanan Bible.

The Ilaw sa Tahanan Bibles are distributed exclusively in relocation sites nationwide. The PBS has distributed 40,458 copies since the project started in 2002.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Detecting …

From page A1

test. It's the bird flu test to be conducted by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau as it starts its random examination of park birds today.

PAWB Director Mundita Lim said the agency would pick from among the 432 birds inside the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City to check for any signs of avian influenza, which has already affected Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and parts of China.

"It's very easy," Lim said of the procedure. "It's like using a pregnancy test kit."

Korean-made

The kits, imported from South Korea, were distributed to all government agencies mandated with keeping the Philippines free from the dreaded bird flu, which the World Health Organization warned could become a pandemic.

Two kits were given out to concerned agencies two weeks ago—one to test for avian influenza and another for the dreaded H5N1 influenza strain that has killed thousands of birds in other countries.

Veterinarians would take a tissue sample from the anus of a dead, ill or suspiciously weak bird, drop it in a vial with the chemical mixture to determine if the bird was suffering from influenza.

If the test yields negative results, that would be the end of the procedure. If it is positive for influenza, experts would have to use the H5N1 test kit to see if it was the lethal strain. The bars would indicate the answer.

An osprey, the first migratory bird brought to the PAWB Thursday last week, tested negative for avian flu, Lim said.

Bird watching

The PAWB has started the bird watching and monitoring in 55 critical sites identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources two weeks ago.

Lim said she spotted nine species of migratory birds in the Parañaque wharf just off Manila Bay, but none of them appeared to have any lethargic illnesses. There were no birds reported to have died.

She noted that bird watchers, who sometimes included experts from the US Department of Agriculture and the Feathered Friends Foundation, were only armed with binoculars.

"It's safe as long as we keep our distance and we don't disturb the birds. The only time we'll need protective gear is when we do the test," Lim said.

The other critical points or areas frequented by migratory birds include the Candaba Swamp in Pampanga, Brooke's Point in Palawan, Olango Island in Cebu, and parts of Negros.

The country has managed to be free of the avian flu virus for the past two years because of its exceptional prevention and information campaign, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban told President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday during the second bird flu update aired on government television.

Municipal vets

Unlike other countries in Asia, the Philippines has municipal veterinarians monitoring poultry and other birds nationwide.

"We have a good process. Other countries don't have a municipal veterinarian and people to get blood samples (from poultry and birds)," Panganiban said.

He added that these veterinarians were able to track down chicken, including those used in cockfighting.

This prompted the President to say that it was a good thing the Department of Agriculture was "devolved" because this resulted in each municipality having a veterinarian.

Through the IRA, Ms Arroyo said local governments were able to hire and pay municipal veterinarians. "There is some good if power is transferred from center to countryside," she said.

MMDA kicks off ₱100-million facelift

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IF YOU BUILD IT, HE WILL COME.

This line from Kevin Costner's movie "Field of Dreams" might just describe the P100-million beautification project of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Saying that the multimillion project is beyond cosmetics, the MMDA has embarked on the makeover to attract tourists and investors to the country.

Specifically, the project will center on a 48.7-km road network connecting the Manila International Airport to hotels and destinations in Metro Manila.

Promising to deliver results before Christmas, the MMDA has begun work on the road network, which it calls the Investors' Corridor.

"This is to improve the general environment in Metro Manila in terms of aesthetics and order," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando in a press conference last week.

He added, "This should serve as a model for the metro. The route is what most visitors take from the airport to hotels, and to Malacañang."

Lined up for facelift

Lined up for facelift are Andrews Avenue in Parañaque, Lawton Avenue in Taguig, and McKinley Road in Makati City.

Also in the plan are the stretch of Edsa and the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard through Pasay and Parañaque, and Ortigas Avenue traversing Pasig and Mandaluyong, said MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno.

Fernando said most of the P100-million funding from Malacañang would be used for infrastructure development, like the leveling of roads, easement and sidewalk clearing and repair, carpentry and painting of run-down structures, landscaping, and waterways cleaning. Street implements, including lights, footbridges, and signages would also be installed.

The MMDA has sent notices to owners of structures set for demolition and has begun talking to families and others that would be affected.

Promoting order

Fernando said the project was more than just another facelift, because it aimed to promote order in the metropolis.

"We also have an information and disciplining effort, because those [living along the route] tend to go back to their old ways of doing laundry and hanging their clothes on the sidewalk, and walking around half-naked," said Fernando.

He added that while previous beautification efforts focused on covering up eyesores along major roads, the Investors' Route program sought to do the opposite.

"The general idea here is not to cover up, but to open the areas for commerce," Fernando said.

One idea is to convert sidewalks into parking areas, he said.

According to him, the route will be rehabilitated in three months, while "substantial improvements" shall be felt before Christmas time, as President Macapagal-Arroyo had wished.

Of the roads lined up for improvement, some had been given a washup last April in preparation for an international gathering of parliamentarians.

Fernando said the agency would again pass through the initially rehabilitated route, including parts of Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Airport Road, Mia Road, Roxas Boulevard, President Quirino Avenue, and JP Laurel Street, for finishing touches and maintenance work.

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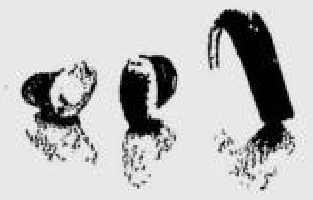

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS FOR *NOVEMBER, 2005*

A. SPECIAL SEMINAR SERIES on LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

CHANNELS OF DISTRIBUTION November 12, 2005	Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
INVENTORY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT November 19, 2005	Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00 PM
WORLD CLASS WAREHOUSING MANAGEMENT November 26, 2005	Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00 PM
TOTAL SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT December 3, 2005	Saturday	9:00PM - 5:00PM

B. REGULAR PROGRAMS

ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS November 19 - December 17, 2005	Saturday	9:00AM - 12:00NN
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING November 14 - 25, 2005	M-W-F	6:00PM - 8:00 PM
MARKETING AND SELLING November 14 - December 12, 2005	Monday	6:00PM - 8:30 PM
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT November 15 - December 13, 2005	Tuesday	6:00PM - 8:30PM
PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT AND COST EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAM November 15 - December 13, 2005	Tuesday	6:00PM - 8:30PM
MERCHANDISE MANAGEMENT November 16 - December 14, 2005	Wednesday	6:00PM - 8:30PM
PRINCIPLE OF RETAIL MANAGEMENT November 17 - December 15, 2005	Thursday	6:00PM - 8:30PM
RECORDS AND FILE MANAGEMENT November 18 - December 16, 2005	Friday	6:00PM - 8:30PM
MARKETING LOGISTICS November 18 - December 16, 2005	Friday	6:00PM - 8:30PM
INSURANCE PROGRAMMING AND RISK MANAGEMENT November 19 - December 10, 2005	Saturday	9:00AM - 12:00NN
INCOME AND BUSINESS TAXES FOR BUSINESSMEN, EXECUTIVES AND PROFESSIONALS November 19 - December 10, 2005	Saturday	1:00PM - 3:30PM
PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY November 19 - December 10, 2005	Saturday	3:30PM - 6:00PM

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Kidnap accused gets pregnant behind bars

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FROM BEHIND COLD PRISON walls, life has sprung.

Rowena San Andres, a co-accused of actor Dennis Roldan in a kidnapping-for-ransom case, is three-months pregnant.

San Andres has been in detention for eight months, together with her husband, Roldan and four others.

Because of her pregnancy, the Pasig City Regional Trial Court has allowed her to go on regular checkups at the Rizal Medical Center, which is about two kilometers from the Pasig City Jail.

Humanitarian reasons

Branch 261 Judge Agnes Carpio granted her motion for medical checkups out of "humanitarian reasons."

The prosecution did not oppose her motion, court employee Eymard Eje told the INQUIRER.

Roldan, the San Andres couple, Romeo Orcajada, Adrian Domingo and Octavio Garces are accused of kidnapping a 3-year-old Filipino-Chinese boy in February.

P250-M ransom

The group allegedly asked the family P250 million in ransom at the start of the negotiations.

Roldan's alleged girlfriend Suzette Wang remains at large.

In a surveillance video taken by the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response and presented by the prosecution before the court, the San Andres couple was shown giving a bath to the kidnap victim inside a house.

The video also showed the couple's two sons playing with the victim.

METROBRIEFS

TV host victimized

ABS-CBN TV host Iya Villania lost her black Nissan Patrol to carjackers yesterday afternoon on Sgt. Esguerra Avenue, Quezon City, near ABS-CBN. The actress' driver Rommel Lobo, 36, told police he heard a strange sound from one of the wheels at about 1 p.m. while he was driving along the avenue. Villania was not in the sports utility vehicle during the incident. Lobo parked the SUV to inspect the wheel when two men on a scooter approached and took the vehicle at gunpoint. *DJ Yap*

VAT worries mayor

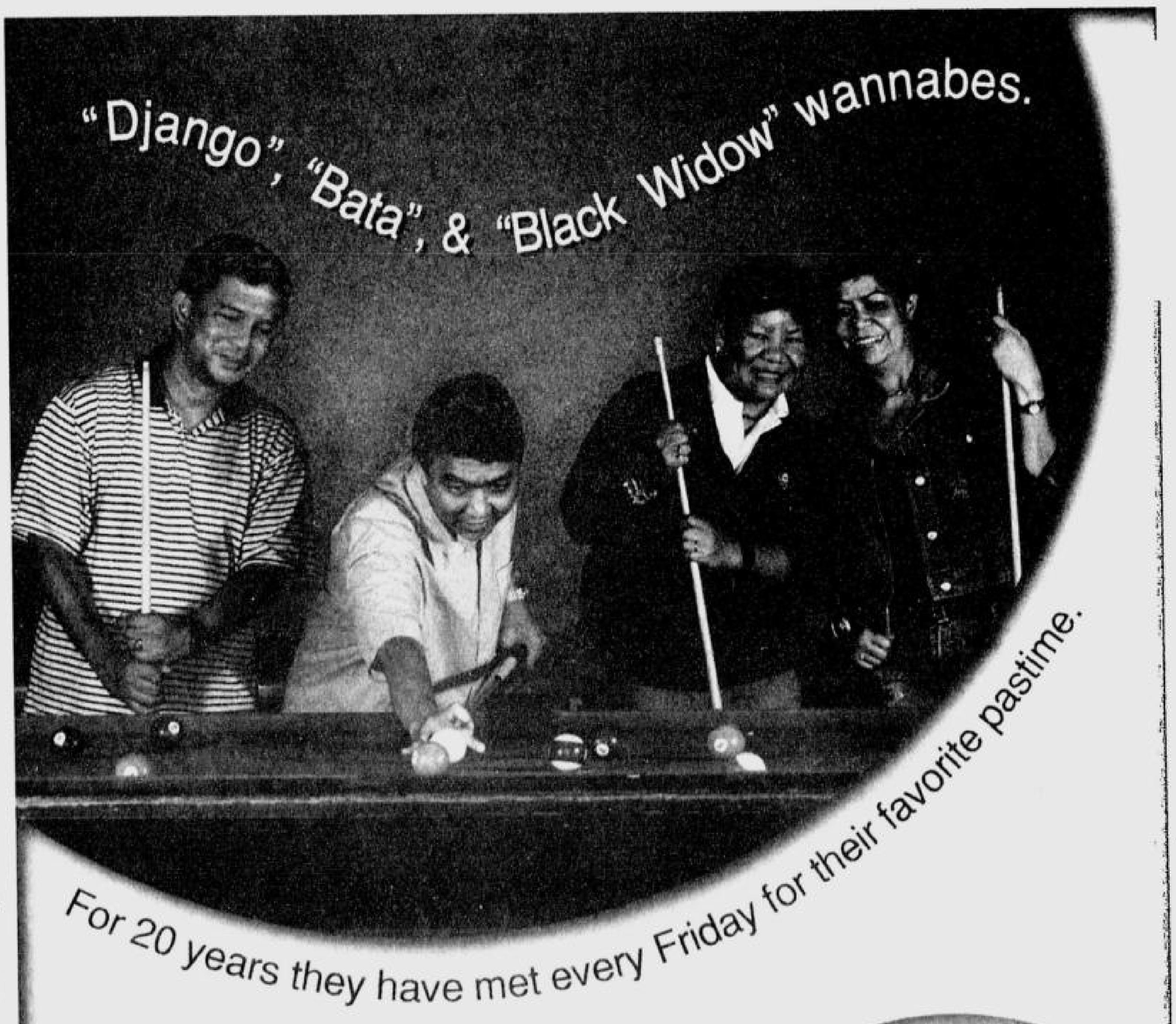
THE RECENTLY implemented expanded value-added tax (VAT) law may cripple the delivery of services by local governments, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said before the weekend. He said at its worst, VAT could sharply reduce local capacity to deliver basic social services and embark on infrastructure projects. Binay explained that with the VAT, all purchases for products and services by local governments would now automatically cost more. The mayor made the statement a few days after the Makati City Council approved the city's new revenue code, a tax legislation that would raise real property assessment levels, permit and other regulatory fees, and business taxes from between 5 percent to 50 percent by next year. The revised revenue code aimed to boost the city's revenue generation, which for Binay was a must for LGUs to maximize local autonomy. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Jaylo's fighting mood

"I'LL FACE them in court." Thus said former Capt. Reynaldo Jaylo, head of the defunct Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force, referring to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) which has filed charges against him and his men. "Go ahead, it's (their) prerogative," Jaylo told the INQUIRER. Jaylo, along with eight of his men, has been slapped with usurpation of authority and serious illegal detention charges by the NBI before the Department of Justice. *Tina G. Santos*

X-mas in Paco

THIS Christmas welcome will stop traffic, literally. A group of Paco, Manila, residents have turned the Estero de Paco Bridge on UN Avenue into a Christmas wonderland. At 4 p.m. today, traffic is expected to slowdown and even stop after half of the road from Tanque Street to Cristobal Street will be closed for the unveiling of the Yuletide landmark. Dubbed the "Bridge of Hope," the bridge has been decked with lights and handmade decors. It is a project of residents of Barangays Tanque and Cristobal and Unilever Philippines.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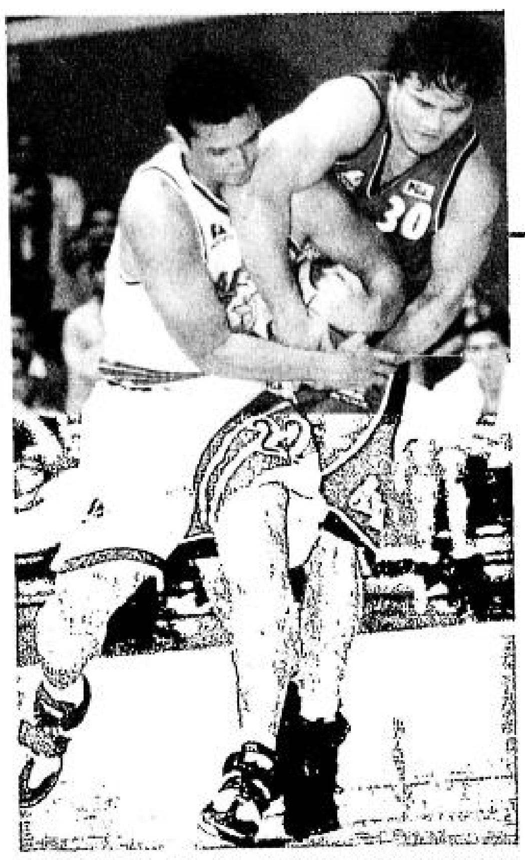
Caguioa shackles Ritualo as Ginebra races to 4th straight win



AIR 21's John Ferriols (left) and Ginebra's Erik Menk battle for possession. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel Beer
7:25 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

FOR A change, Mark Caguioa wasn't his usual trigger-happy self last night.

Caguioa sacrificed his offense and hounded Renren Ritualo without letup to help Barangay Ginebra register a 93-83 win over Air21 in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Caguioa's leech-like defense limited the slippery Air21 sniper to 14 points on five of 20 attempts from the field.

"Mark made sure that Renren (Ritualo) worked doubly hard for those 14 points," said Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen as the Kings improved to 6-3 with their fourth straight triumph.

And while Caguioa put the cuffs on Ritualo, Andy Seigle, Eric Menk and Rommel Adducul also flexed their defensive muscles and forced portly Air21 import Shawn Daniels to grind it out for each of his 21 points and 17 rebounds.

Menk topped his defensive effort with 17 rebounds while contributing 17 points to the Ginebra offense.

In the second game, Talk 'N Text crushed Alaska, 101-79 to gain a share of the lead with its sixth win in eight outings. The Aces slipped to 5-3.

The scores:

First Game

GINEBRA 93—Menk 17, Helterbrand 15, Lampley 14, Caguioa 14, Adducul 9, Holper 7, Salvacion 6, Seigle 5, Macapagal 4, Santos 2.

AIR21 83—Ferriols 22, Daniels 21, Ritualo 14, Tubid 9, Arboleda 6, Canaleta 3, Gonzales 3, De Ocampo 3, Fran 2, Dacla 0, Se 0.

Quarters: 33-22, 57-43, 75-61, 93-83

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 101—Cantrell 19, Taulava 15, Miller 13, Pablo 12, Cardona 11, Carey 10, Washington 8, Belano 8, Alapag 3, Telan 2.

ALASKA 79—Cariaso 17, McClary 15, Alvarez 10, Cablay 8, Cortez 7, Dela Cruz 7, Hawkins 6, Wilson 6, Thoss 2, Hugnatan 1.

Quarters: 22-13, 45-24, 74-48, 101-79

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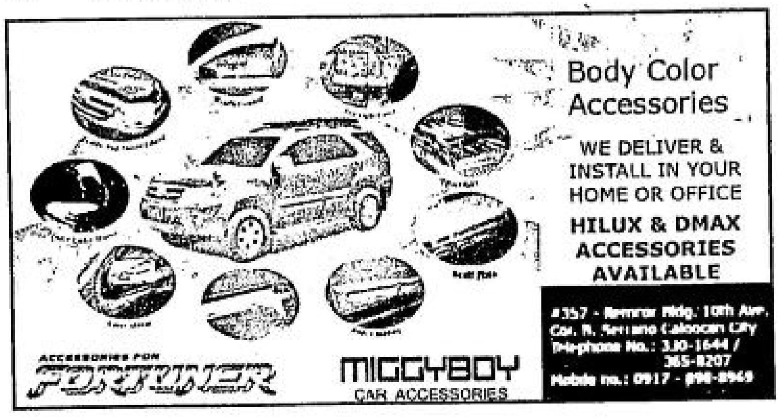
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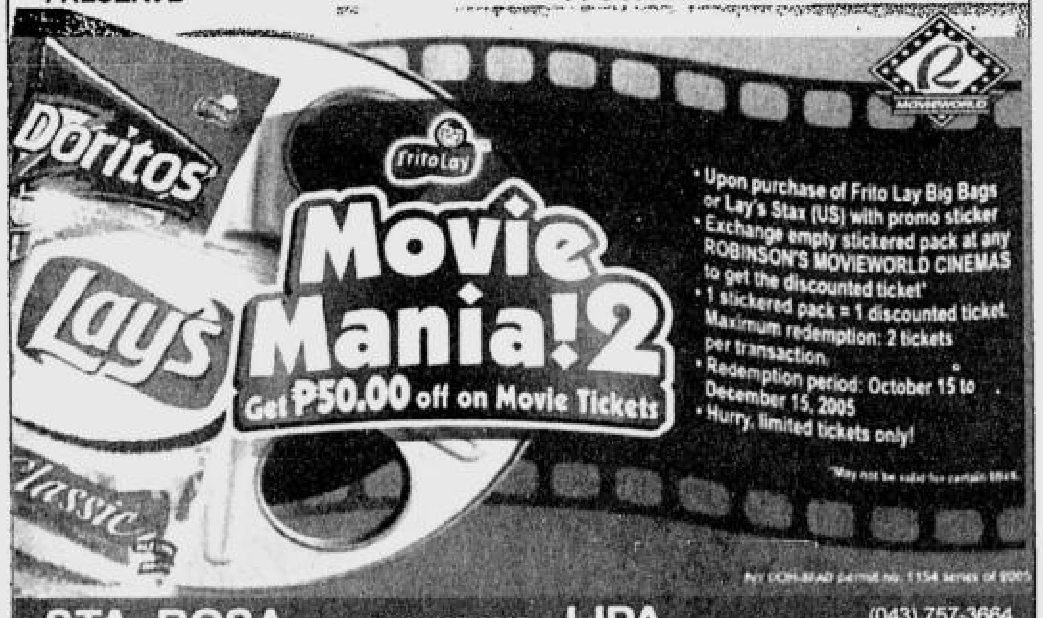

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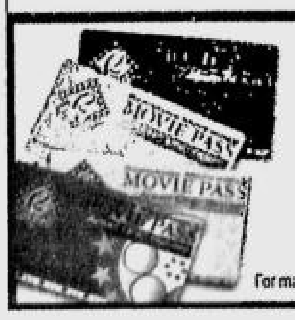

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NOV 6		Whale Rider	My Summer of Love	Clean	My Summer of Love
NOV 7	Joint Security Area	Tae Guk Gi	Dear Wendy	Tae Guk Gi	Joint Security Area
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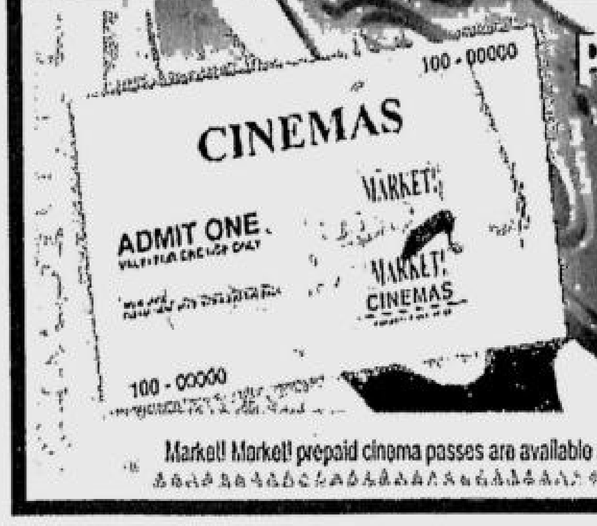

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BATTLE OF COURTS

The Zone shows way to tight semis

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOUR POWERHOUSE CLUBS CRASHED INTO THE SEMIFINALS OF THE Battle of the Courts: National Interclub Badminton Championship yesterday at the Rockwell tent.

Defending champion The Zone arranged a semifinal duel with Valle Verde Country Club, while Quezon City Sports Club and Centro Atletico sealed the other showdown.

The Zone stayed on track for a second straight title after sweeping Peregrine Manila, 2-0.

Model Gem Padilla and Lhit Pascual got things going with a gritty 9-15, 15-9, 15-11 win over Manila's Leitz Altuna and Violy Alipio in the ladies' doubles.

The Zone later secured their semis spot when corporate managers Alvin Ballesteros and Bubu Santos downed Mark Mayo and Gary Tulio, 15-13, 15-10, in the men's doubles.

Valle Verde advanced after outlasting Alabang Country Club, 2-1, with Elizabeth Ng and Naini Ong scoring in the ladies' doubles and Ken Torres and Dina Guerrero taking the mixed doubles.

Banking on a strong finish, Ong and Ng repulsed Mafi Basit and Thea Cordero, 15-8, 6-15, 15-1.

Although Alabang evened it up in the men's doubles, Torres and Guerrero clinched the win for Valle Verde with a 10-15, 15-12, 15-8 triumph over JV Madrid and Lulei Avecilla.

Quezon City Sports Club also took the longer route by hacking out a 2-1 decision with wins in the men's doubles and mixed doubles against Portside-Cebu.

After dropping the opener in the ladies' match, Kerwin Tiu and Bogs Simeon outplayed Ruel Dihansan and Ramon Aquino, 15-6, 15-11.

Adrain Co and Elaine Lao claimed the mixed doubles over Allaine Arias and Antonio Larranas, 15-3, 15-4.

Centro Atletico posted a 2-0 sweep against Family Badminton Center.

Barely challenged, Beth Pulido and Jorge Emi routed Julie Kalingan and Jane Olorvida, 15-2, 15-5, while Jofer Velez and Jaime Ramos thumped Jojo Cruz and Edward Santos, 15-5, 15-12.

Inquirer Badminton, Mizuno and Smart: Simply Amazing are the main presenters of the country's most prestigious interclub badminton tournament. Citibank On-line, Unilever, Cebu Pacific and Rockwell Center are the major sponsors, Toyota Innova the official vehicle, Gerlfor Taraflex the official mat provider and Bellevue Manila, the official hotel.

THE ZONE'S Gem Padilla (right) hits a smash as her partner Lhit Pascual guards against a drop shot during their match with Peregrine Manila yesterday. ROGER CARPIO

Esguerra bets rule Philtobo races

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

HERMIE ESGUERRA'S GALLOPERS again stamped their superiority in the Philtobo Grand Championship Day yesterday.

Real Spicy and Euro Bucks oozed with might in their respective divisions, overpowering their rivals in the sixth staging of the country's biggest single-day racing event at the Santa Ana Park.

Antonio Alcasid Jr. found no need to use the whip as Real Spicy outclassed the field in the Vicente Puyat Cup 3-Year-Old Colts, while Jesse Guce also sat quietly atop Euro Bucks who trounced her foes in the Philtobo 3-Year-Old Fillies for her sixth straight victory.

Esguerra also shone as breeder of Real Spicy, a son of 1998 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes champion Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale, while former Marho chief Aristeo "Putch" Puyat also got an award as breeder of Euro Bucks, a daughter of Account of Grace out of Leveret. Both gallopers are trained by former jai-alai star Andrew Sanchez.

Real Spicy, gearing up for his rematch with import Wild Orchid in next week's Speaker's Cup, finished the 1,600-meter race way ahead of Golden Fantasy, Smokin' Red and At All Cost. He clocked 1 minute 39.6 seconds.

Euro Bucks was similarly awesome in preserving one of the longest winning streaks this year as she prevailed by six lengths over Full of Fury. Extreme Heat was third, then came Unrivaled.

In the two other major events flagged off at presstime, Speed Advantage of the Yutadco Stable whipped import Golden Link in the Magic Millions Cup, while the Naval Stable's Vivere turned back Esguerra's Moab in the Pioneer Wind Blown Sprint Cup.

A piece of foul play in Mandaluyong

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT many good things are taking place in my hometown, Mandaluyong, now run by the venerable City Mayor Neptali Gonzales Jr., son of the great Tali Gonzales, former president of the Philippine Senate.

There are likewise many good things that can be said of the way Boyet, as our mayor is fondly called around here, has been conducting the affairs of our city.

No, these great developments don't often see print in the newspapers. But it cannot be said that the mayor's publicists are remiss in their job.

Those who happen to pass by Mandaluyong would be totally blind to miss the giant, glaring billboards prominently displayed in choice points that loudly declare projects both completed and ongoing.

It's, of course, too early to ask. But fellow taxpayers in our city have been wondering if Boyet Gonzales is already on a political campaign.

* * *

No need to ask how much of the taxpayers' money are also spent on those startling billboards that regularly flash the sweet, smiling face of our mayor.

He may or he may not be (on a permanent campaign) but, as friend and *kumpadre* of our mayor, I find it my duty to tell him a few things that happen behind his back.

The bad news is that there are also a few bad things taking place in my hometown.

Yes, the good far outnumber the bad.

In fact, Mayor Boyet issued a detailed reply and assurance when, three months back, we reported here the raid conducted by the task force directly under him in our neighborhood.

The raiders, who neither consulted with the nearby barangay office nor carried a warrant, caused the death of a quiet, well-loved retiree, German Macalanda, whose fault—if fault it could be—was in having sold Pangasinan bagoong and tomatoes outside his fence.

The Macalandas, who got ample support from columnist Ramon Tulfo, have sued the raiders.

* * *

The case is being heard in the Mandaluyong City Fiscal's Office.

In response to our report on that illegal raid, Mayor Boyet had issued the following assurance:

"I would not and I am not condoning the actions of the Anti-Vice unit that will be found detrimental to the public. At this time, I am also not clearing them of any culpability, as I still have to finish a thorough investigation on the matter. My commitment to ridding our city of illegal and socially aberrant activities, such as gambling and drug abuse, within the period entrusted to me as city mayor stays and will be pursued without letup. I do not discharge the duties and responsibilities of my office for show, or for just trying to score brownie points (or *pogi* points in the lingo). Within the bounds of the law, I will fulfill my duties no matter who gets caught."

Thank you, sir. Now, this is not to put the mayor's office in a bad light.

Unfortunately, we've just re-

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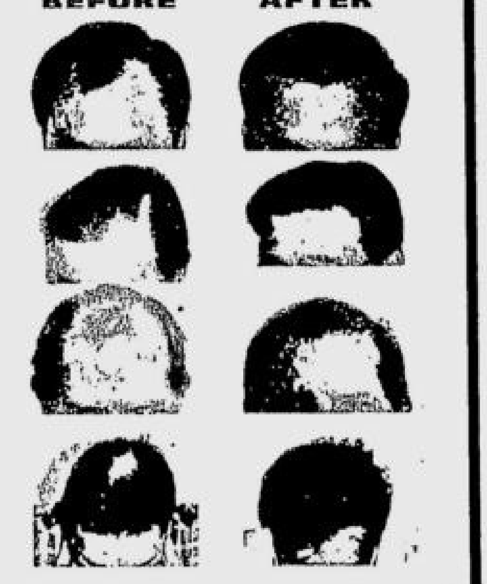

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Megamall
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AN UNFINISHED LIFE
Nov. 20 • Cinema 2

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THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 FOUR BROTHERS
01:30FS/01:50MF/04:10/06:30
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:35/06:15
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/11:10END

MEGAMALL
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:15FS/12:40MF/02:40
04:10LFS/04:40LMF/06:10END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 DOOM
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END
3 TRANSPORTER 2
11:20FS/11:30MF/01:10/04:30/06:10
07:50/09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

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SM MEGAMALL
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRISTISTA
5 DOMINO
6 LORD OF WAR
7 WAITING
8 THE GHOST INSIDE
9 FOUR BROTHERS
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 DOOM
12 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 WAITING
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 THE GHOST INSIDE
9 MY SASSY GIRL
10 DUBAI

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE GHOST INSIDE
4 DOMINO

SM VALENZUELA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE GHOST INSIDE
4 DOOM

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DOOM
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 DOMINO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 MY SASSY GIRL
10 THE GHOST INSIDE
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DUBAI

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
4 DOMINO
5 WAITING
6 DUBAI
7 FOUR BROHTERS
8 THE GHOST INSIDE
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 MY SASSY GIRL

SUPERCENTER [illegible]
1 WAITING
2 DOMINO
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 WAITING
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 THE GHOST INSIDE
6 DOOM
7 FOUR BROTHERS
8 DOMINO

SM CITY MANILA
1 DOOM
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 DOMINO
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 DEUCE BIGALOW
11 WAITING
12 THE GHOST INSIDE

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1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOMINO
3 WAITING
4 DOOM
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA

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SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WAITING
2 DUBAI
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 DOMINO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY LUCENA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LORD OF WAR
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LORD OF WAR
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 DOOM
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 WAITING
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 RESERVED
3 WALLACE AND GROMIT
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 RESERVED
8 BLADE OF ROSE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 ONE MISSED CALL 2
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LORD OF WAR

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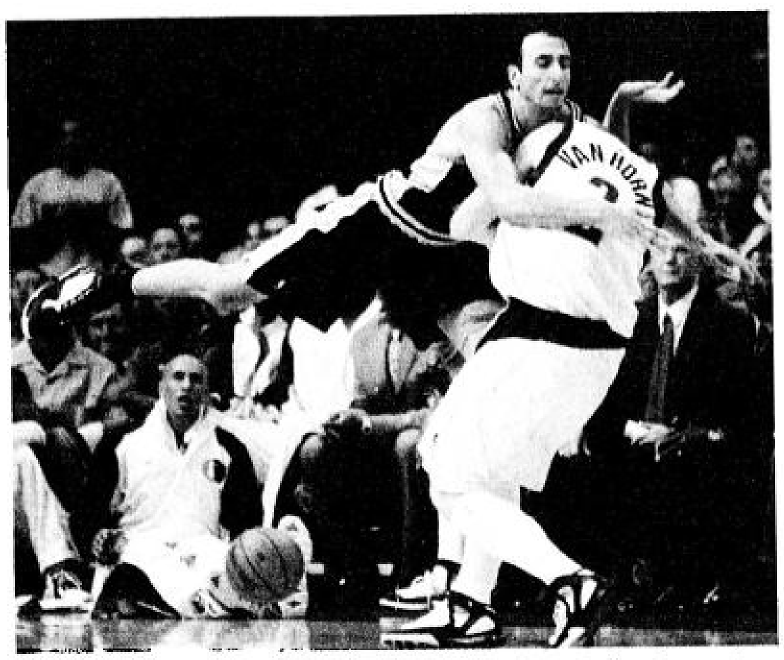
Iverson, Webber give coach 1st win



SAN ANTONIO'S Manu Ginobili crashes hard into Dallas forward Keith Van Horn. The Mavericks defeated the Spurs, 103-84. AP

INDIANAPOLIS—ALLEN IVERSON HAD 29 POINTS and 12 assists, and Philadelphia beat the Indiana Pacers, 111-109, Saturday for Maurice Cheeks' first win as 76ers coach.

Chris Webber added 25 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers, who nearly blew a 20-point lead.

Indiana had a chance to tie the game in the closing seconds, but Stephen Jackson and Jamaal Tinsley missed 3-pointers, and Webber made two free throws on the other end with 1.8 seconds left to seal the win.

Philadelphia (1-3) shot 61 percent from the field the first three quarters, but struggled in the fourth to allow the Pacers back into the game.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points and combined with Devin Harris to spark a 16-2 run that broke open a tie game, leading the Mavericks past former teammate Michael Finley and the San Antonio Spurs, 103-84.

In their first home game since Finley's departure, the Mavericks held their former leader to two points. He received a long, loud standing ovation when he entered in the first quarter, but was hardly heard from again despite playing 27 minutes.

Nowitzki scored 11 straight points in the second quarter. He finished 12-of-20—including 4-for-5 on 3-pointers—and had eight rebounds. Harris scored 20 of his career-high 22 points in the fourth quarter.

Tony Parker led San Antonio with 24 points and Tim Duncan scored 18. Manu Ginobili scored 13 and Nick Van Exel, another former Mavs player, had 11, all in the first half.

In other matches, Washington defeated Orlando, 87-79; Detroit crushed Toronto, 117-84; Charlotte nipped Boston in overtime, 107-105; New Jersey eked out a 100-99 thriller over Chicago; Memphis tripped Cleveland, 113-106; Milwaukee upset Miami, 105-100; New Orleans beat Houston, 91-54; Phoenix slugged Utah, 97-88; Portland nicked Atlanta, 94-93, and the LA Clippers sank Minnesota, 100-99, in overtime.

In Milwaukee, Bobby Simmons and Michael Redd each scored 23 points as Milwaukee recorded its third straight comeback win over a playoff team with a victory over Miami.

Dwyane Wade's 21 points led the short-handed Heat, who blew a nine-point lead in the fourth quarter to the delight of the friendly crowd at the Bradley Center, where Wade led Marquette to the Final Four in 2003. *AP*

JENNIFER Rosales (right) congratulates win

Jewels regain shine

AFTER A STUNNING opening-game loss, Montaña Pawnshop recovered its bearings and crushed Hapee-PCU, 64-48, in the PBL Heroes Cup on Saturday night at the JCSGO Gym.

Montaña caught Hapee at 1-1, in a tie with Granny Goose and Rain or Shine.

The scores:

MONTAÑA 64—Vergara 11, Capus 9, Espiritu 7, Juntilla 7, Mercado 6, Compton 6, Castro 6, Dela Cuesta 6, Bono 4, Tolentino 2.

HAPEE 48—Belga 11, Moreno 8, Castro 6, Razon 6, Sanz 5, Espinas 4, Gonzales 3, Gloria 3, Amparado 2.

Quarters: 13-24, 32-32, 50-39, 64-48 *Jasmine Payo*

Appari claims RP slot

By Dennis U. Eroa

HOMETOWN BET Alice Kate Appari scored the biggest win of her career with a stunning 16-9 win over World Championships bronze medalist Gretchen Abaniel Saturday night in the Touch Mobile Go-for-Gold slugfest at the Burnham Park in Baguio City.

Aparri thus landed the pinweight slot for the RP team in the SEA Games set Nov. 27 in Bacolod City.

Also getting SEA Games slots were Mindoro light-fly Analisa Cruz who edged Jennifer Pecking, 15-14; and UB's Jouvilet Chilem, who nipped Johren de la Rosa, 13-12, in the bantamweight class.

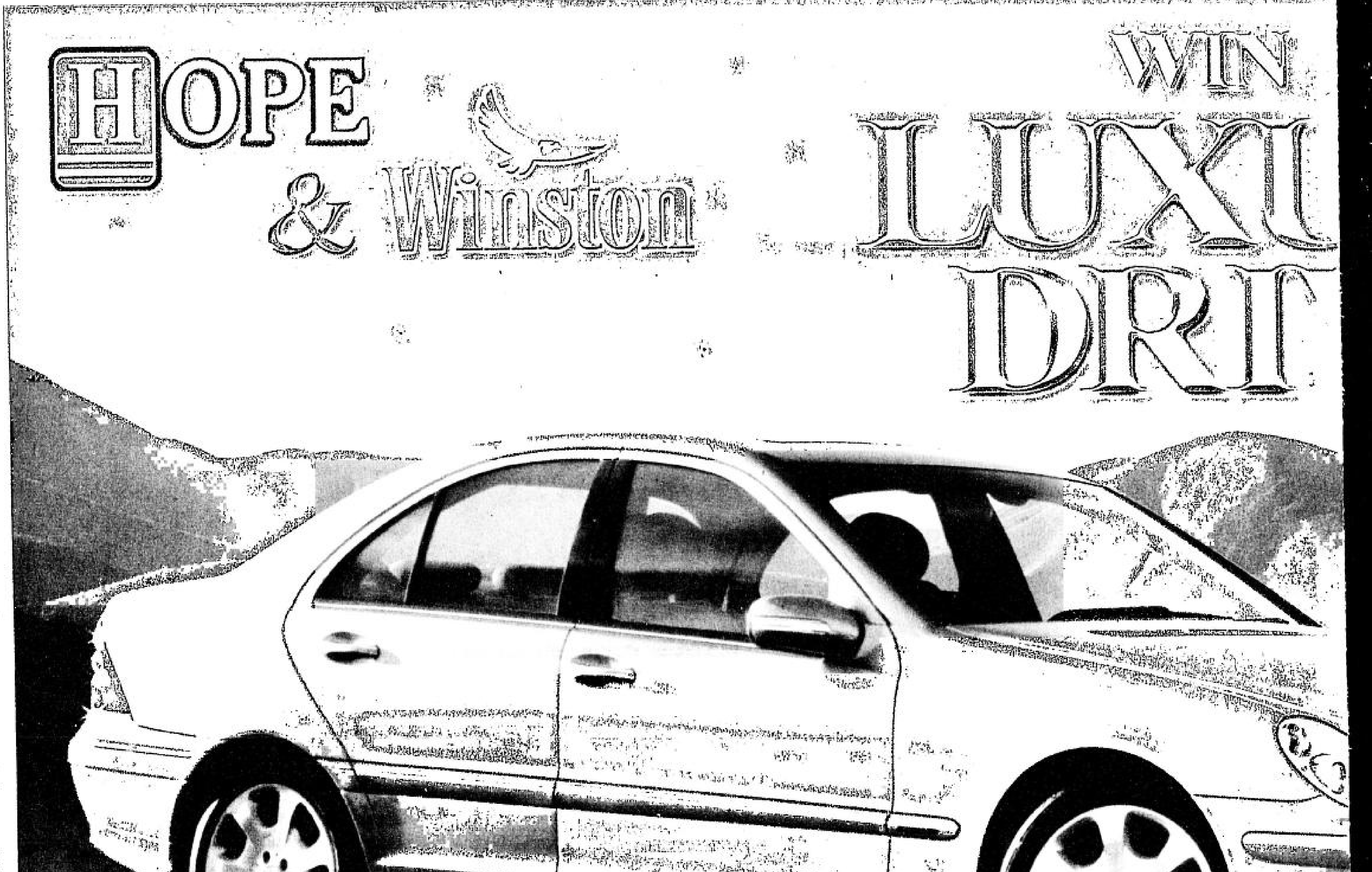
Desamito tops Yakult 10 Miler

BERNARDO DESAMITO Jr. outsprinted Cresenciano Sabal down the wire to rule the 17th Yakult 10-Miler yesterday at the CCP complex in Pasay City.

Desamito, the reigning Pasig River International Marathon king, timed 52 minutes and 4 seconds to beat Sabal, who topped the recent Milo Marathon, by two seconds.

Completing the top five were Alquin Bolivar (53:28), Reynaldo delos Reyes (54:46) and Rio dela Cruz (54:56).

Flordeliza Carreon of Baguio City ruled the women's race in 1:04:11. Liza Delfin finished second while Mila Paje placed third.



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ner Annika Sorenstam. AP PHOTO

J-Ro finishes 2nd

Annika bags record fifth Mizuno crown

OTSU, Japan—THE PHILIPPINES' JENnifer Rosales closed out with a six-under 66 and finished three shots behind history-making Annika Sorenstam Sunday in the Mizuno classic.

Sorenstam became the first player in LPGA Tour history to win a tournament five straight times, shooting an 8-under 64 in steady drizzle Sunday for a three-stroke victory in the Mizuno Classic.

"Obviously I'm very, very happy to get a chance to do something today that nobody has ever done before," Sorenstam said.

"I felt pressure all week, but I was able to control my nerves and make some birdies when I needed to. To come here and do something like this is very gratifying."

Sorenstam, 95 under in 15 rounds on the Seta course during her winning streak, broke a tie with Laura Davies for the LPGA Tour-record for consecutive victories in an event. Davies won the Standard Register Ping from 1994-97.

The PGA Tour record for consecutive victories in an event is four, a mark shared by Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen and Tiger Woods.

Sorenstam pulled away from playing partners Rosales and Young Kim with birdies on Nos. 14 and 15 and also birdied the final two holes—both par 5s—for the second straight day. After opening with five straight pars, Sorenstam made an eagle on the sixth hole—draining a 15-foot putt after a 4-wood approach from 218-meters (240 yards)—and added birdies on Nos. 8 and 11 tie Rosales and Kim for the lead.

"That eagle putt got me going on the front and I think my solid back nine was the key," Sorenstam said.

The Swedish star opened with rounds of 64 and 67 en route to a 21-under 195 total. She had only one bogey in the tournament.

Rosales, the Filipino star who won the SBS Open at Turtle Bay in February for her second LPGA Tour title, also made an eagle on the 440-meter (483-yard) sixth, sinking a chip shot.

Kim, the South Korean, had a 70 to drop into a tie for third. *AP*

ROSALES: Eagle highlights six-under card AP

Bryant seizes control

ATLANTA—BART Bryant blasted out of the sand and into a three-shot lead Saturday in the Tour Championship, holing a bunker shot for birdie on the 18th hole for a 66 and a 14-under 196.

Bryant was clinging to a one-shot lead over defending champion Retief Goosen of South Africa over the back nine at East Lake, with Tiger Woods closing with three birdies over his final five holes.

But Goosen three-putted for bogey from about 45 feet on the 17th to fall two shots behind, and was in the same bunker to the right of the 18th green when he watched Bryant make it for an unlikely birdie.

"So far, it's been a lot of fun," Bryant said.

Woods managed to make birdies on the par 5s for the first time this week and shot 67 to finish four shots behind at 10-under 200. *AP*

Que ties for 12th with 70

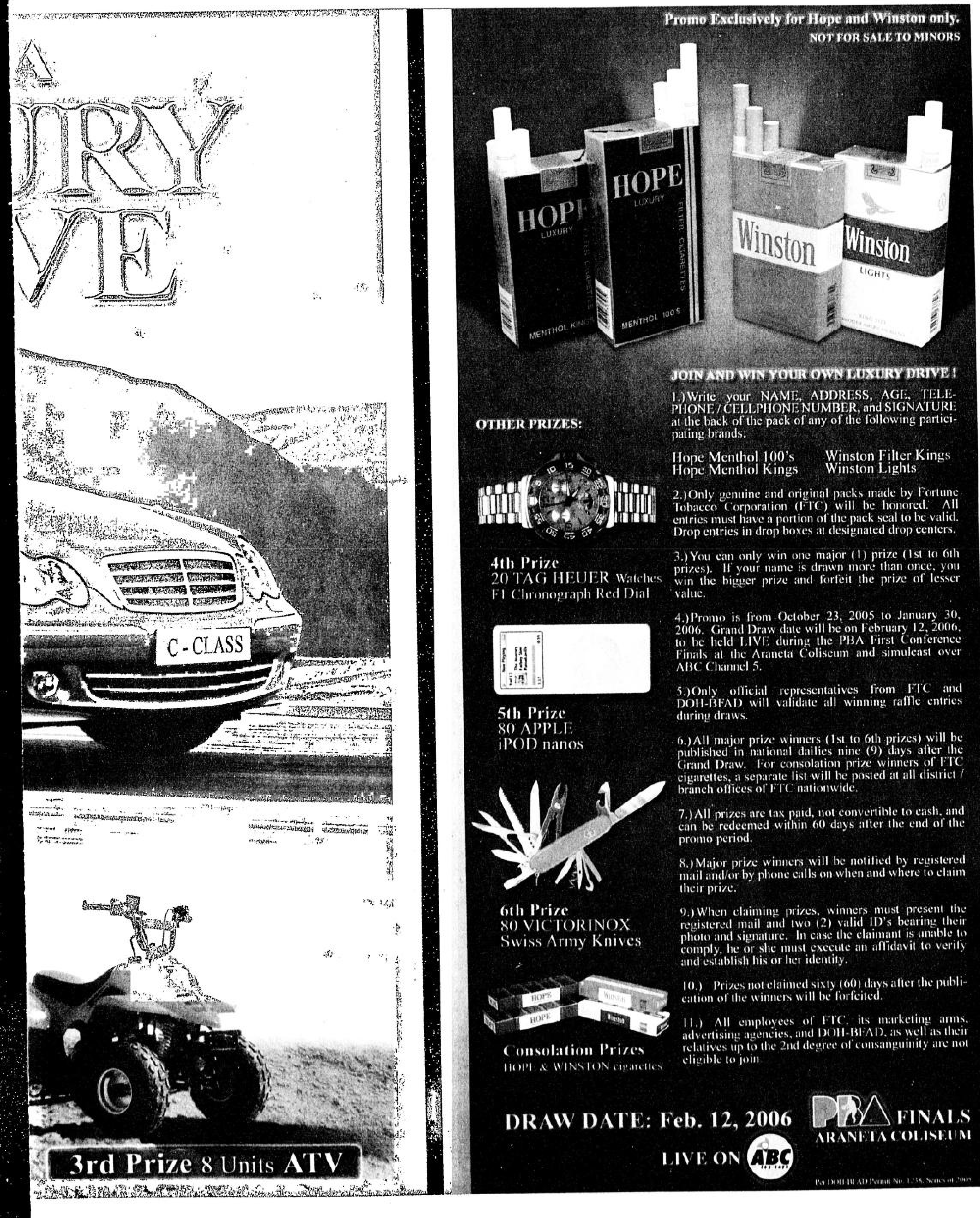
RAYONG, THAIland—Angelo Que warmed up for his defense of the Carlsberg Masters Vietnam title in less than two weeks with a respectable finish in the $300,000 Double A International Open won by Thailand amateur Chinarat Phadungsil Sunday.

Que closed out with a three-under-par 70 at the par-73 St. Andrews Hill (2000) Golf Club here to wind up in a six-way tie for 12th place with an eight-under 284 total.

Gerald Rosales, who started the final day tied for fifth, again wilted in the last 18 holes as in India last week, shooting a 76 for 286 to land in a three-way logjam for 24th place.

Also crumbling was Cookie La'O, who ended up in an eight-way deadlock for 36th position after a 75 and a 289 total. Jerome Delariarte had a 71 for a 293 aggregate, good for a tie for 56th.

Chinarat became the Asian Tour's first amateur leg winner in a long, long while by nipping India's Shiv Kapur on the second hole of their playoff.



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5.)Only official representatives from FTC and DOH-BFAD will validate all winning raffle entries during draws.

6.)All major prize winners (1st to 6th prizes) will be published in national dailies nine (9) days after the Grand Draw. For consolation prize winners of FTC cigarettes, a separate list will be posted at all district / branch offices of FTC nationwide.

7.)All prizes are tax paid, not convertible to cash, and can be redeemed within 60 days after the end of the promo period.

8.)Major prize winners will be notified by registered mail and/or by phone calls on when and where to claim their prize.

9.)When claiming prizes, winners must present the registered mail and two (2) valid ID's bearing their photo and signature. In case the claimant is unable to comply, he or she must execute an affidavit to verify and establish his or her identity.

10.) Prizes not claimed sixty (60) days after the publication of the winners will be forfeited.

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Montilla stops foe in 2nd round; Barcelona wins by decision

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

ONE USED BRUTE POWER WHILE THE OTHER LEANED ON BRILLIANT boxing as they retained their respective Philippine titles in the co-main events of the "Fight for Love" card Saturday night at the New San Andres Sports and Civic Center in Manila.

Philippine lightweight champion Fernando Montilla put down challenger Dexter Delada twice in the second round, survived a knockdown in the third, before putting away his foe for good with two more knockdowns in the fourth.

Fans enjoyed every bit of the action in the card put up by North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol and close friends with full backing from Filipino ring hero Manny Pacquiao to raise funds for ex-world champ Luisito Espinosa.

Eric Barcelona, the RP super flyweight titlist now promoted by Piñol, displayed superb boxing in the early rounds, but had to survive a seventh-round knockdown before eking out a split decision win over tough-as-nails Celso Danggod.

Barcelona, who will most likely vie for the Pan-Asian Boxing Association super fly crown in December, won on scores of 113-112 (Epe Almeda) and 115-111 (Henry Verniz). Ricardo Canlas saw it 114-112 in favor of Danggod.

Other bouts: Robert Rubillar prevailed on a split decision over Dennis Juntillano; Albert Alcoy took a majority decision verdict over Rex Peñalosa; Tommy Terado stopped Danny Linasa after three knockdowns in the 8th; Marcito Gesta drew with Rey Llagas in the second round; Rommel Bongon won by split decision over Edrin Dapudong.

A piece of foul play in Mandaluyong

From page A27

ceived an urgent letter complaining about another illegal raid allegedly conducted by agents of the city's drug enforcement unit.

* * *

Here's that letter:

Dear Sir,

I've read in your column about an illegal raid made by members of the task force under the office of the Mayor without any legal search warrant.

A similar incident happened at my residence at 851 Ginhawa St. Plainview, Mandaluyong City.

At around 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 5, 2005, 8 police agents and their supposed assets, together with an employee of the city, forced entry into my house without any search warrant and thereby took away valuable personal items and damaged antique wares as they ransacked my place in the guise of searching for illegal drugs.

They found none!

In that same illegal raid, they threatened the life of my brother who lives in the house and caused him bodily harm as they tried to take him to the police office for no apparent reason.

Luckily, he was able to resist the illegal arrest.

These agents refused to identify themselves. But their accomplice, a certain Florencia Reyes, a resident of the area who boasted contacts with the local police force, obviously used this connection to have the agents undertake the illegal raid and intimidate members of my household.

The aforesaid person, Florencia Reyes, actually has a pending complaint for damage to property, grave threats and grave slander filed by my brother against her in Barangay Barangka and Barangay Plainview a couple of weeks ago.

This probably prompted her to use her said influence with the Mandaluyong police force to conduct the illegal raid.

Through you, I am seeking assistance against this illegal act and bring people responsible to justice.

I am hoping that you can help me get the attention of their superiors and the City of Mandaluyong to take appropriate action.

Respectfully yours,
LINO A. BARTE
Homeowner

Did POC violate Olympic Charter?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FORMER FIBA (International basketball federation) secretary general Borislav Stankovic once said, the Philippine Olympic Committee is the "highest sports authority in the country."

As such and, as provided in Item 32 of the Olympic Charter, the POC has the inherent power and mandate to recognize an NSA (national sports association) within its territorial jurisdiction. It did not violate the Olympic Charter when it withdrew recognition of the Basketball Association of the Philippines because it was simply exercising a fundamental right.

The BAP was expelled because of its continued defiance of the POC, the highest sports authority in the land, and for its show of disrespect, as well as for its failure to arrest the country's string of shocking setbacks in recent years. It was booted out last July by an overwhelming 33 votes from the NSAs during the POC general assembly, which is the supreme authority in the local Olympic body.

However, the decision of the POC assembly may still be forwarded to the Court of Arbitration for Sports in Lausanne, Switzerland, where the International Olympic Committee is based.

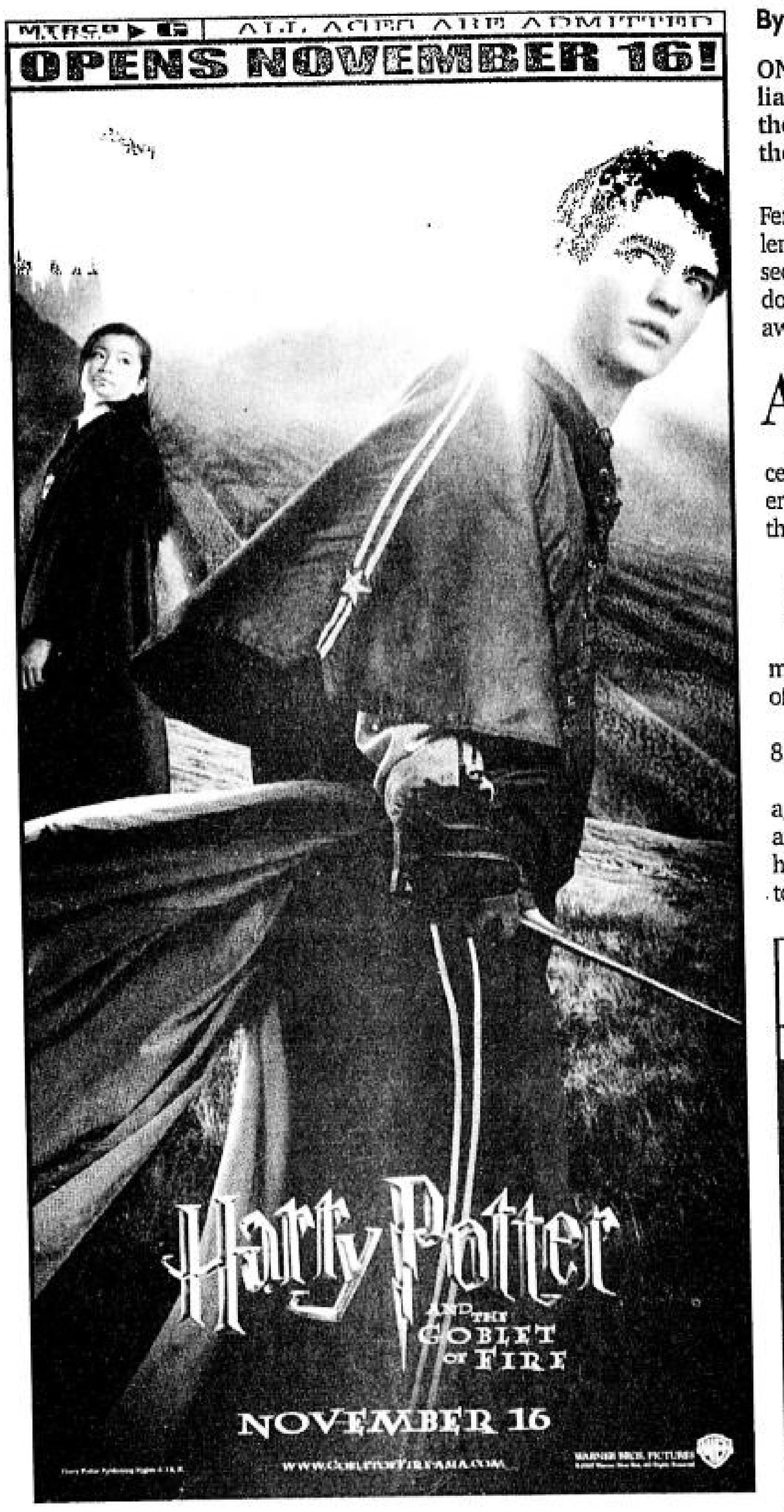
This process is embodied in the POC Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the Olympic Charter to provide the contending parties in any dispute—in this case the POC and the BAP—a neutral ground for a fair, honest and impartial disposition of justice. Any other means, including the intervention of the courts, to resolve sports conflicts in the Olympic family, is certainly anti-sports.

Even the Supreme Court abhors the intrusion of the courts in purely sporting disputes, saying that legal notions must not be allowed to intrude at every level in the enforcement of rules of private (or even public) sporting activities. Otherwise there will be chaos and confusion.

The high tribunal noted that encouraging the intervention of the courts in sports conflicts would ultimately pervert sporting events, adding that unless a clear case is found for arbitrary and brazen violations or applications of sports rules by officials themselves, it is best for courts to prudently leave things where they are.

* * *

PETRON XTRA ON THE ROAD: My gratitude to an esteemed friend, Vickie Castro, for giving me the opportunity to try Petron's latest innovation in gasoline, the Petron Xtra Unleaded. I would also like to thank marketing services manager Ramon V. Del Rosario for the added information on the first and only gasoline that has been tested to run 1,114 kilometers on a full tank across the varied terrain, road and traffic conditions in Luzon. My racing idol, Pocholo Ramirez, conducted the test run… **Malonzo writes GMA:** Former POC president Col. Julian Malonso (ret.) said he has written President Macapagal-Arroyo informing her that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo could best serve the country as "Chief Patron of Philippine Sports" but not as Chief of Mission of the Philippine delegation to the 23rd SEA Games. The position of "Chief of Mission" is a "demotion" for the First Gentleman, said Malonso.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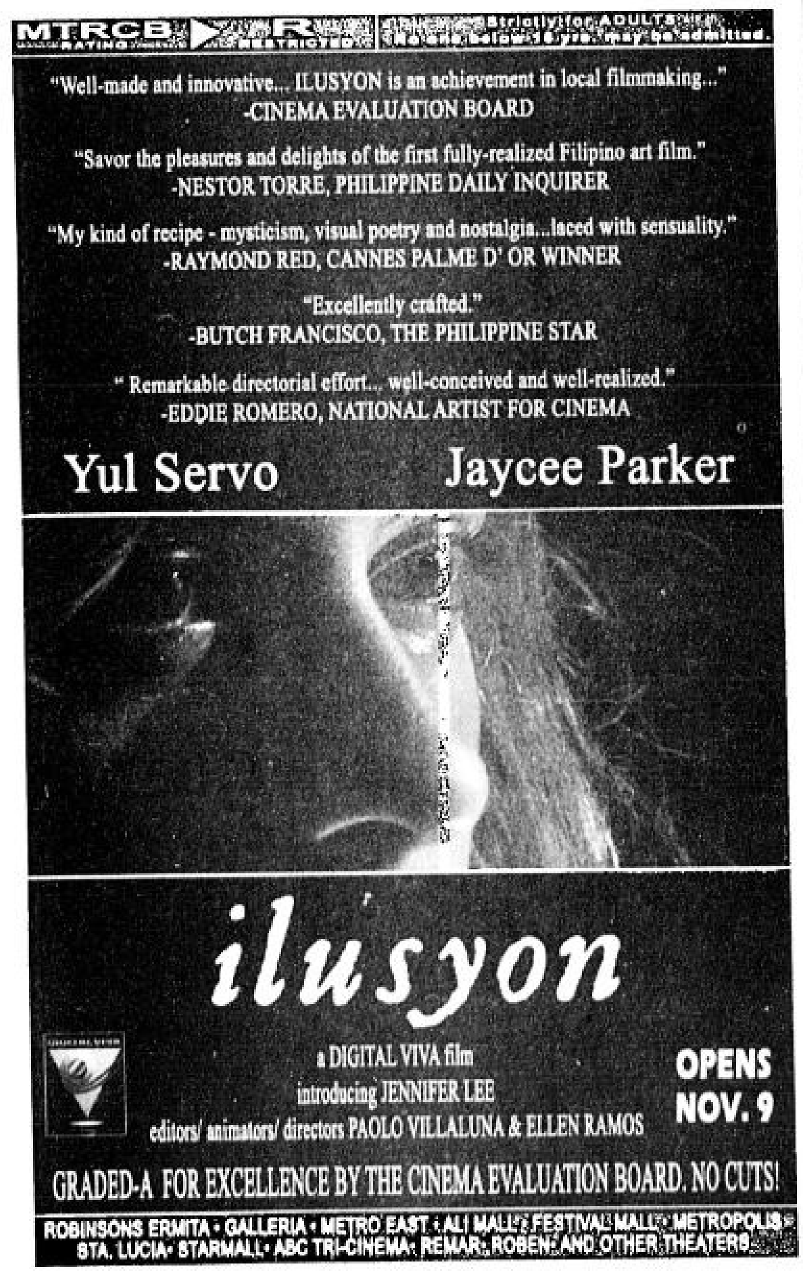
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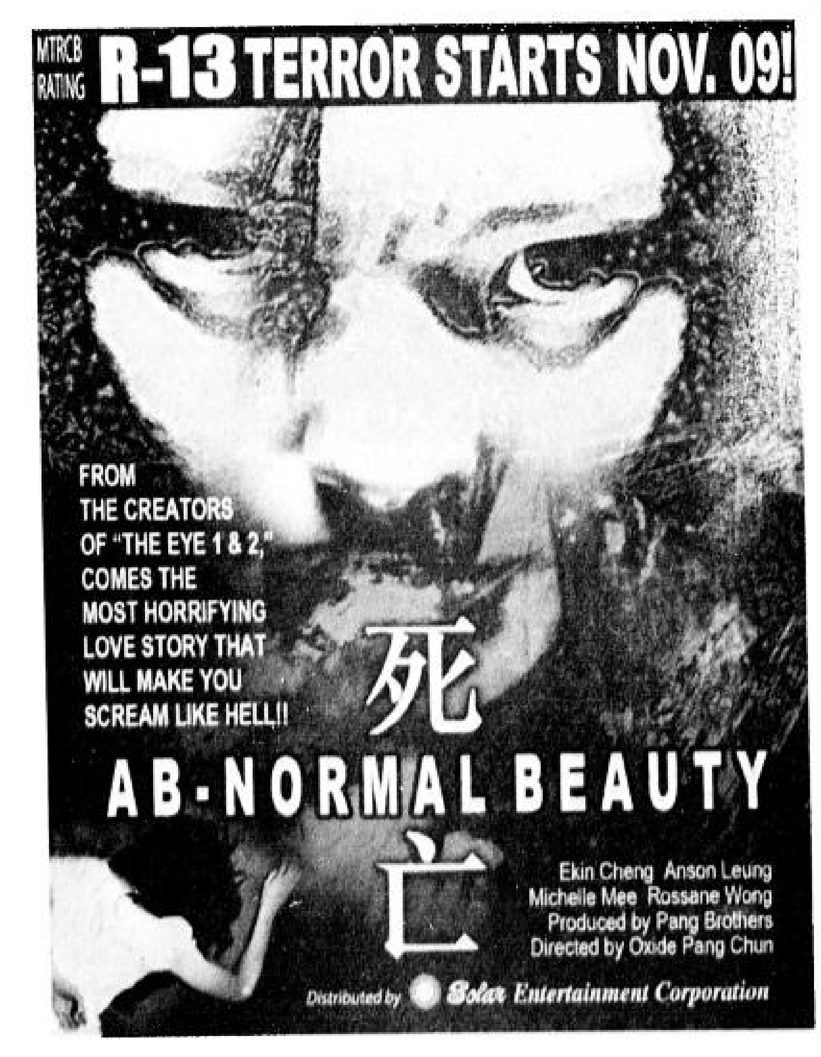
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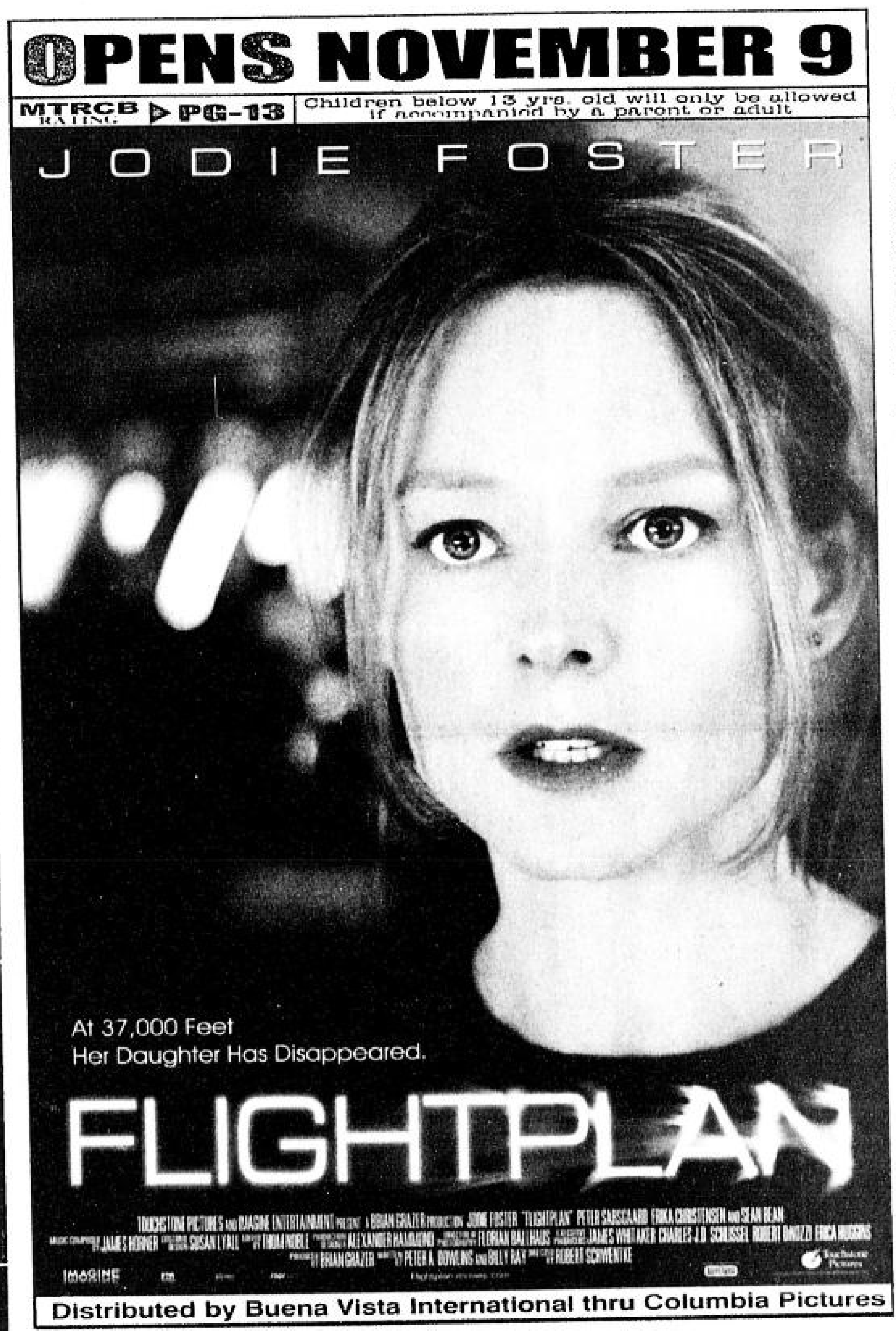
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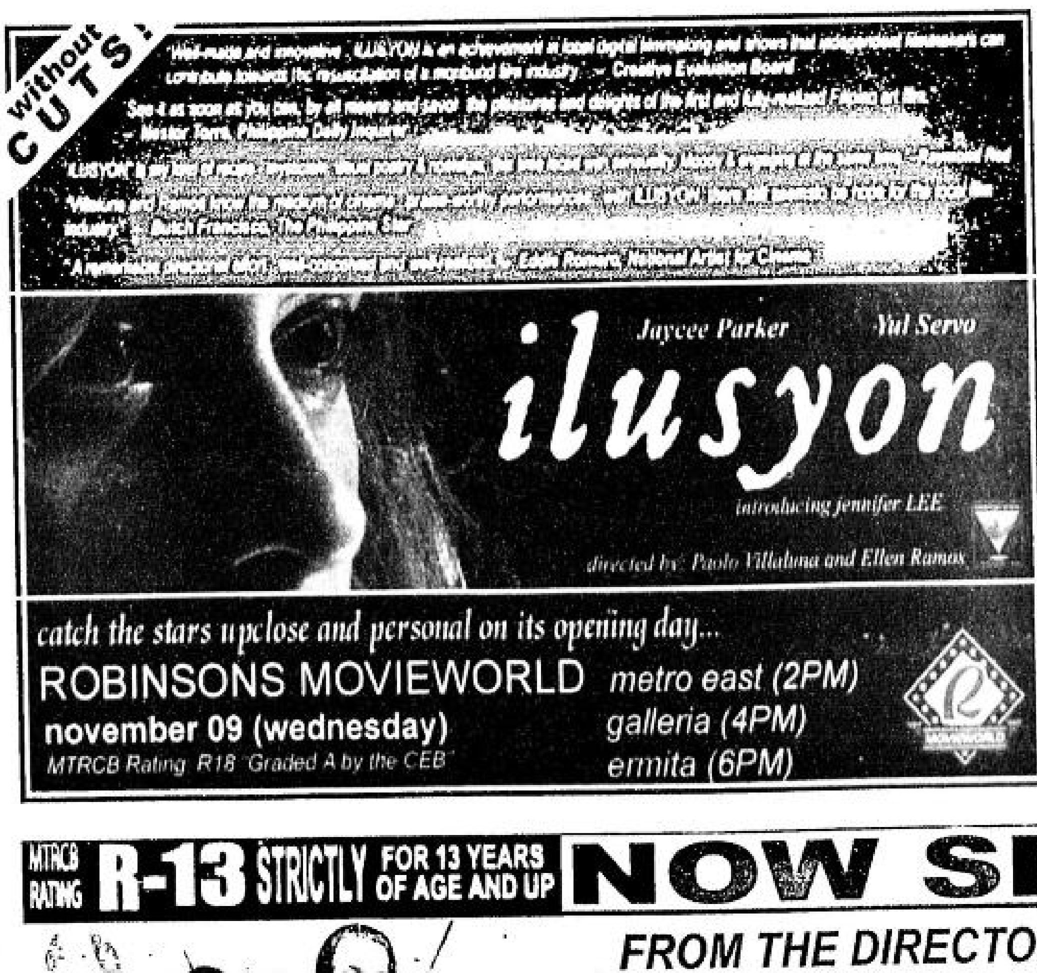
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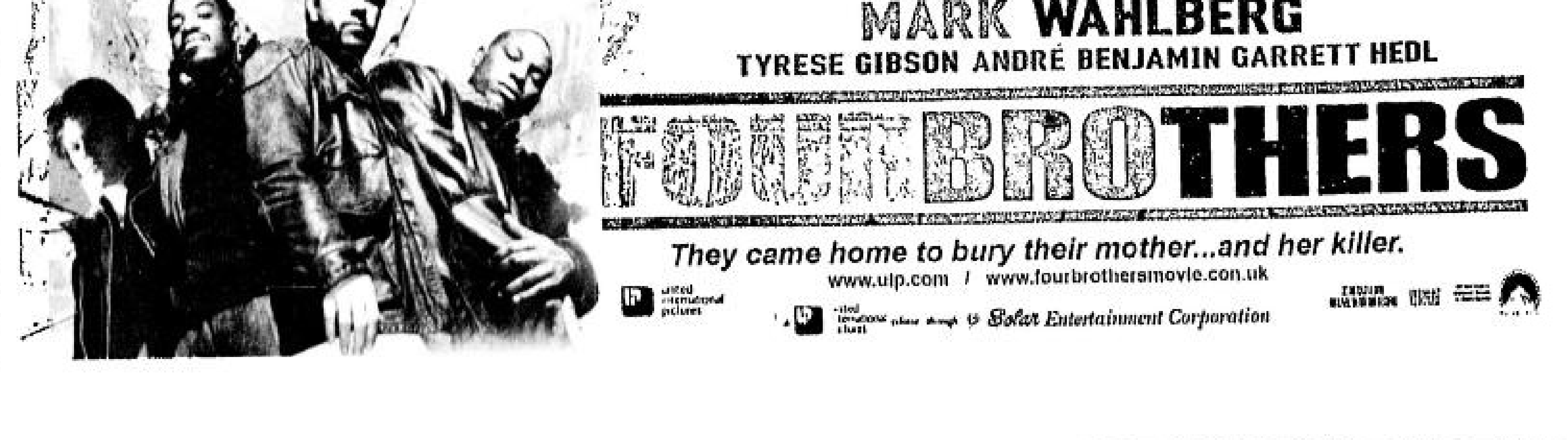
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Mikola nails 3rd, takes AF3 crown

From page A32

Irishman John O'Hara ruled Round 11 from pole position, finishing in 36 minutes, 49.124 seconds, while Macau's Rodolfo Avila, who started fifth on the grid, grabbed second place in 37:05.019.

The day, however, belonged to Mikola, 25, who picked up 12 more points to jack his total to an unassailable 139 going into Round 12 later yesterday.

Top Filipino bet Tyson Sy, who started the race in second overall but with faint hopes of still bagging the title, could only finish fifth after starting from fourth on the grid.

Sy actually passed Mikola at the end of the fifth lap, but lost control of his car and had to slow down, allowing Avila and Filipino Dado Peña to roar past him.

"I was going in too fast when I got Ananda," said Sy. "My car wiggled because of my speed and never recovered from there. I tried to catch up with them but I just could not get through their momentum."

Whatever happens in the last race, Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Threebond, is assured of the crown, won last year by Australian Christian Jones.

Mikola's half-brother, Moreno Soeprato of Denso Hanjin JF3, made it a family double, clinching the Promotions class crown for cars with chassis built in 2000 and older.

"Every race is a learning process," said Sy, the Speedtech Asia chief driver, who gained eight points for the race and boosted his total to 109. "Even if I did not get the overall title, I'll still gun for the podium in the final race."

Briton James Winslow remained third with 100 points after he was black-flagged for blocking Sy at the start of the race, while O'Hara was fourth with 99.

The races were covered by Studio 23 and sponsored by Addict Mobile, PLDTmyDSL, Boysen, Yokohama Tires and Lima Hotel.

Mikola clocked 37:07.045 for the race followed by Peña of Team Goddard Minardi (37:08.016), Sy (37:09.420), Emmet Queenan (37:26.231), Soeprapto (37:40.564), Pepon Marave of Shell Helix (37:51.429), Lee Farrell (37:54.076), Joel Retuya (37:20.080), Greg Murphy (37:21.900) and Enzo Pastor (38:25.216). Fil-Briton Jonathan Legris managed just 2 laps.

The order of finish in Round 11 will be the grid positions for the last round.

90 fights up in Big Dome derby today

THE BATANGAS BREEDers Club 3-Stag Derby gets going today at the Araneta Coliseum with more than 90 fights on tap starting at 2 p.m. "This is the first time that our group will hold a derby at the famous Araneta Coliseum, that's why each member is fielding his best gamebirds," said BBC president Fred Katigbak. The BBC stagfest is part of the National Bakbakan 9-Stag Derby. For inquiries, call 911-3101, 911-2928 or 0917-5274056.

Palos Verdes just 3 points off Alta Vista

STANDINGS (after 2 legs): 76 Alta Vista, 73 Rancho Palos Verdes, 59 Eagle Ridge, 38 Royale Tagaytay, 32 Summit Point, 30 Orchard, 16 Lakewood, 14 Caliraya Springs

DAVAO—RANCHO PALOS VERDES pressed its title-retention bid by winning two of the three divisions disputed in the Mindanao leg it hosted here last Saturday, inching to within three points of leader Alta Vista in the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2005.

Palos Verdes Team 4, made up of Eduardo Wee (44), Ronald Galicia (42), Jessie Tan (40) and Andrew Bautista (31), pooled 134 points under the three-to-count, four-to-play format for a 267 total and a big 18-point win in Group 2 over another Palos Verdes team.

Palos Verdes 6 also delivered through Arsenio Lim (40), Ricardo Elizagaque (38), Alejandro Dayot (33) and Ramon Teodoro Garcia (26), who topped Group III by eight over Eagle Ridge 6 with 221.

Palos Verdes topped the leg with 40 points to boost the Davaoeños within reach of Alta Vista going into next month's three-stage Luzon swing to be played in three courses.

Saving the day for Alta Vista was its main squad of Carl Almario, Joseph Stevens, Edito Tirol and Enrico Solon who won leg honors in Group I for the second straight time with a 157-305.

Eagle Ridge 1 placed second, nine points behind.

RP booters get wish in SEA Games draw

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE MEN'S FOOTBALL team got its wish to be bracketed with powerhouse Thailand in the eliminations even as the national women's side drew an opening-day bye following last night's football draw for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Never a medal winner in the Games, the Philippine men's coaching staff believes that falling in the same group with Thailand would give them a bigger chance of landing in the medal game since they would not meet the Thais in the cross-over semifinals.

The nine teams in the men's division were bracketed into two groups, with Thailand given just three other sides in its section as a concession for winning the last event in Vietnam two years ago.

All the five countries in women's play, however, were placed in one group and the Philippines drew a bye as host.

The women booters open up their bid on Nov. 24 against Thailand at the Marikina pitch, while the RP men's team debuts on the same day against the rock-solid Thais in Bacolod.

Indonesia, Myanmar and defending champion Vietnam are the other campaigners in the women's event.

Representatives from the embassies of Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore were present during the drawing of lots together with Lehoai Anh of the Vietnam Football Federation, Meckham of Laos and officials of the Philippine Football Federation led by president Johnny Romualdez.

Asian Football Confederation sec-gen Dato Paul Muni supervised the draw.

Vietnam clashes with Singapore to officially take the lid off the Games at 4 p.m. on Nov. 20, either at the Paglaum or Panaad field in Bacolod, before Myanmar and Laos collide at 6:30 p.m.

Malaysia and Cambodia are in Group A in men's play along with RP and Thailand, while Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia make up Group B.

OPENS NOV. 9
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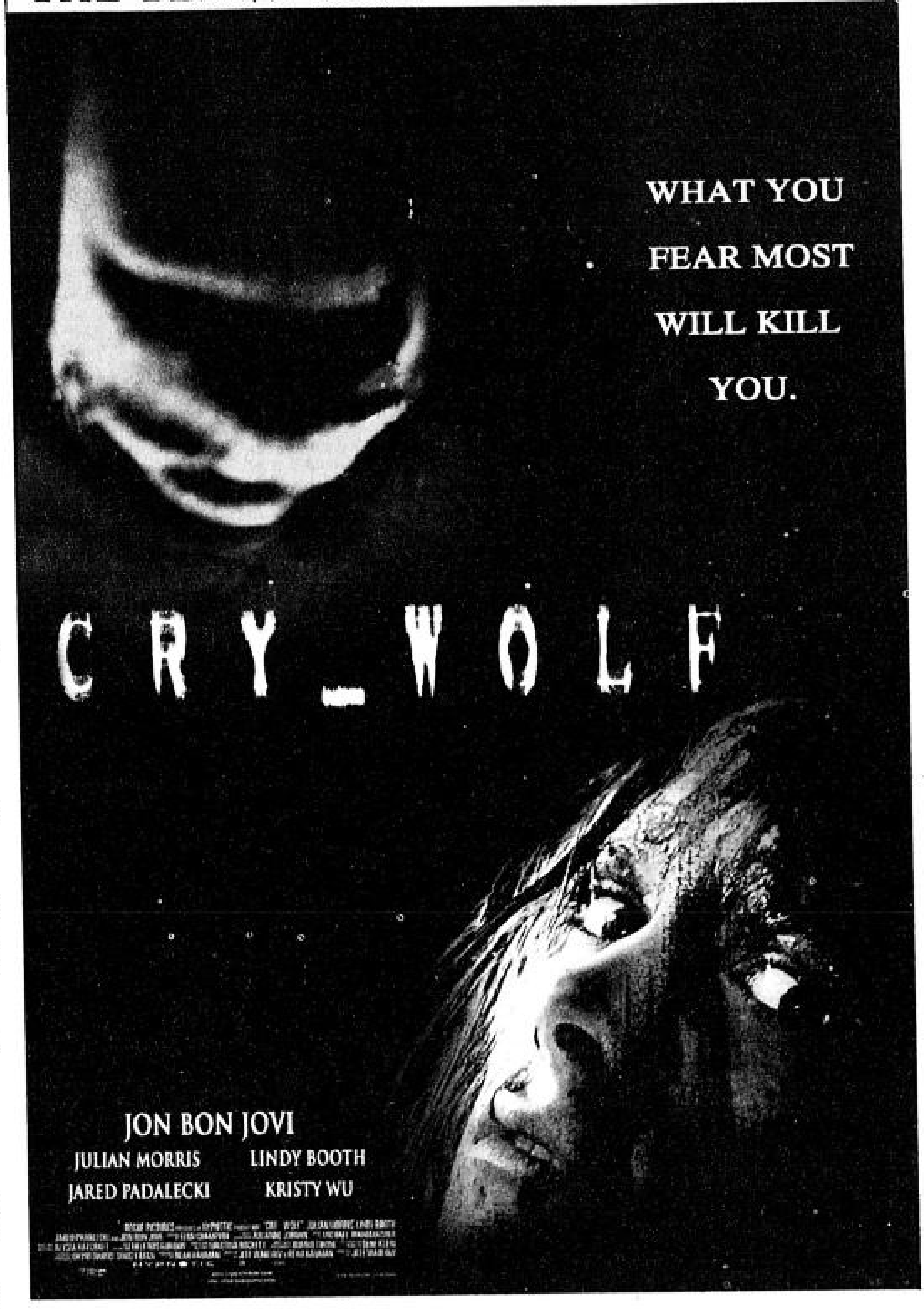

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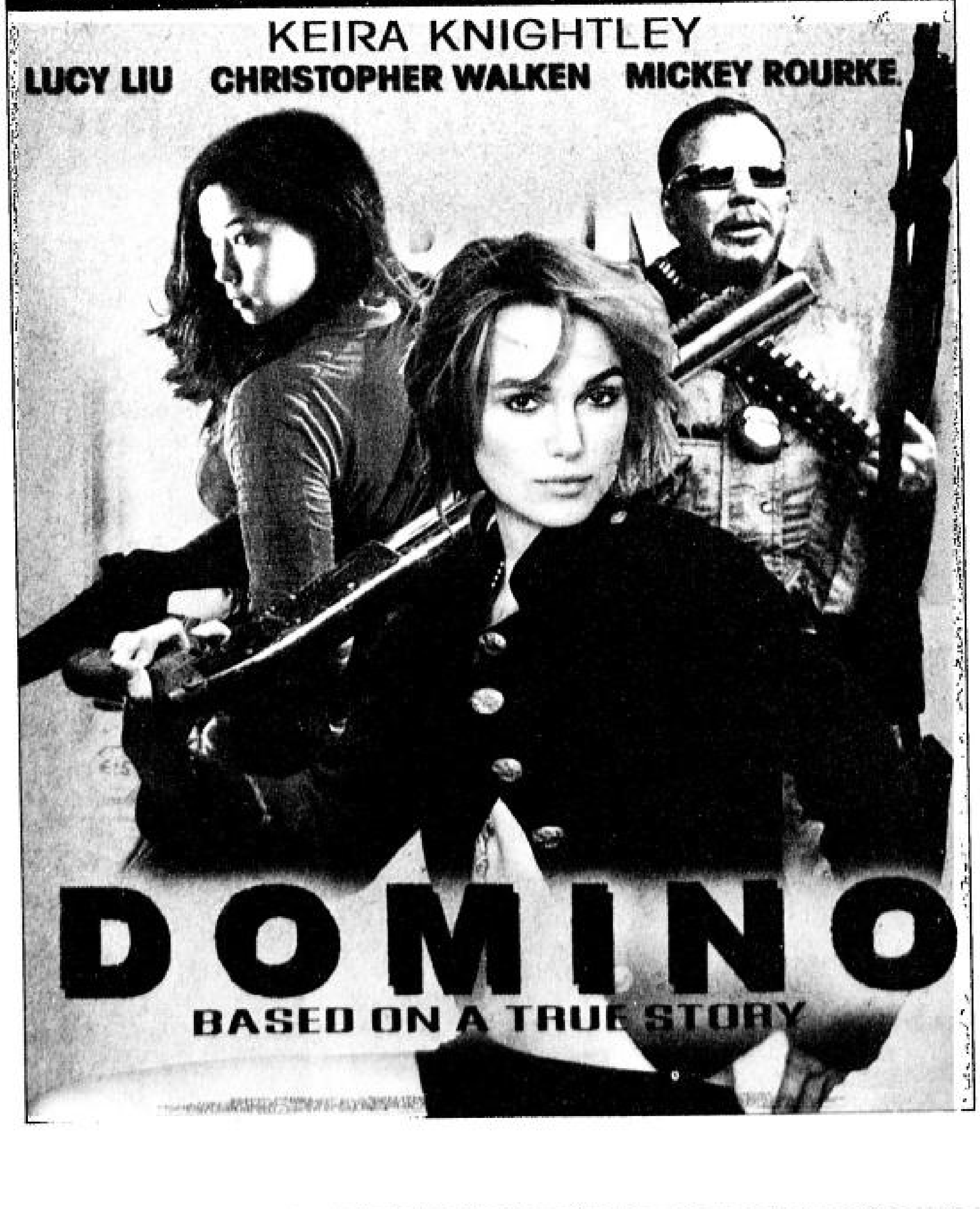

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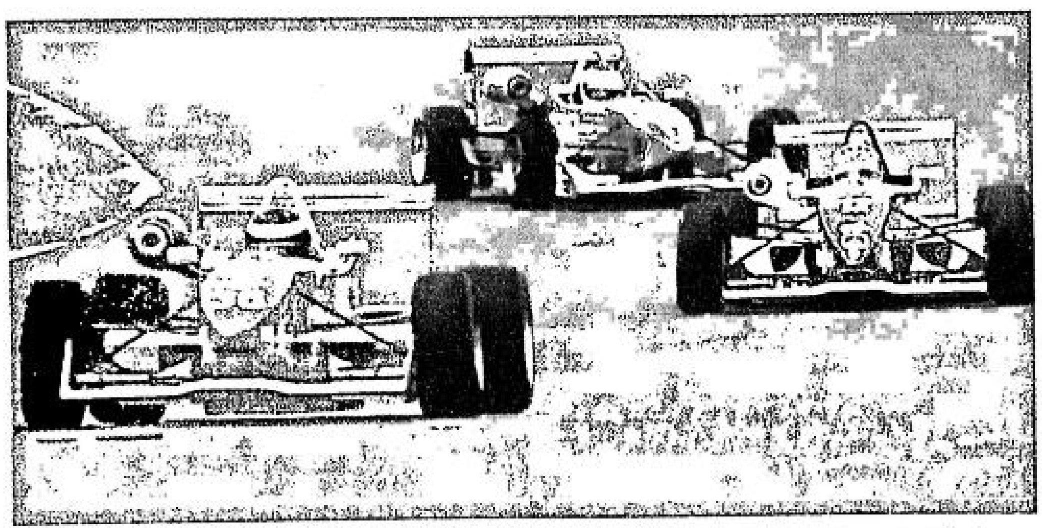

IRELAND'S John O'Hara (36) rounds the bend in the lead over virtual champ Ananda Mikola (12) of Indonesia and Britain's James Winslow in Round 11 at the BRC yesterday. ROMY HOMILLADA

Mikola nails 3rd, takes AF3 crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—INDONESIAN ANANDA MIKOLA FINISHED A FIGHTING THIRD yesterday and clinched the overall crown with one round to spare in the Asian Formula Three Philippine Grand Prix before a capacity crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

MIKOLA/A31

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5. No available drop boxes or receiving outlets in Visayas & Mindanao areas.
6. Weekly draws shall be held every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. starting Sept. 18, 2005. Only entries received until 5:00 p.m. every Saturday of each draw date will qualify for the draw. Weekly draws shall be held at the office of Cockhouse Corporation, 17 Diego Silang St., Proj. 4, Q.C.
7. Non-winning entries for the weekly draw will not be included in the succeeding weekly draws but will automatically qualify for the grand draw.
8. The grand draw is on March 19, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., (Cut off period: March 15, 2006, 5:00 p.m.) to be held at the office of The Cockhouse Corporation located at #17 Diego Silang St., Proj. 4, Q.C.
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Important: All prizes are not convertible to cash and non-transferrable.

10. A participant can only win one weekly prize for the entire promo period. If his/her name is drawn again in the succeeding weekly draw, he/she is automatically disqualified and another entry shall be picked. On the grand draw, a participant can only win once. If his/her name is drawn again, he/she gets the prize with higher value.
11. Winners will be notified thru registered mail, TV announcements from weekly program TUKAAN (aired over Channel 13 every Sunday at 12 noon), and thru print media partners Sabong Stars, The Fighting Cock & Pit Games magazines.
12. Period of redemption is within sixty (60) days from the date the registered mail was received by the winner. The notification letter will include the procedures in claiming the prize, especially for winners residing outside the Greater Manila Area, Central Luzon and Rizal Provinces.
13. Winners residing in the Greater Manila area (GMA), Central Luzon and Rizal Provinces can claim their prizes at the office of The Cockhouse Corporation. However, if the winner is from North & South Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao Area, the Cockhouse Corporation will arrange and identify a much nearer place for him/her to claim the prize. The details or instructions will be mentioned in the registered mail.
14. In claiming, the winner must present the registered mail he/she received and any two (2) valid IDs such as driver's license, passport, company ID, GSIS card, SSS card, etc. The 20% tax of prizes exceeding P10,000.00 shall be paid by the winner. The Cockhouse Corporation will not shoulder the travel expense and other expenses incurred by the winner in claiming his/her prize.
15. Employees of Roostermedia Productions, The Cockhouse Corporation, Sarimanok Feeds Co., Inc., Thunderbird, Univet Agricultural Products, Inc., Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, and Novartis Healthcare Phils. and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

Watch TUKAAN & SULTADA, hosted by Emoy Gorgonia, to know the participating products for the week and for the announcement of winners.

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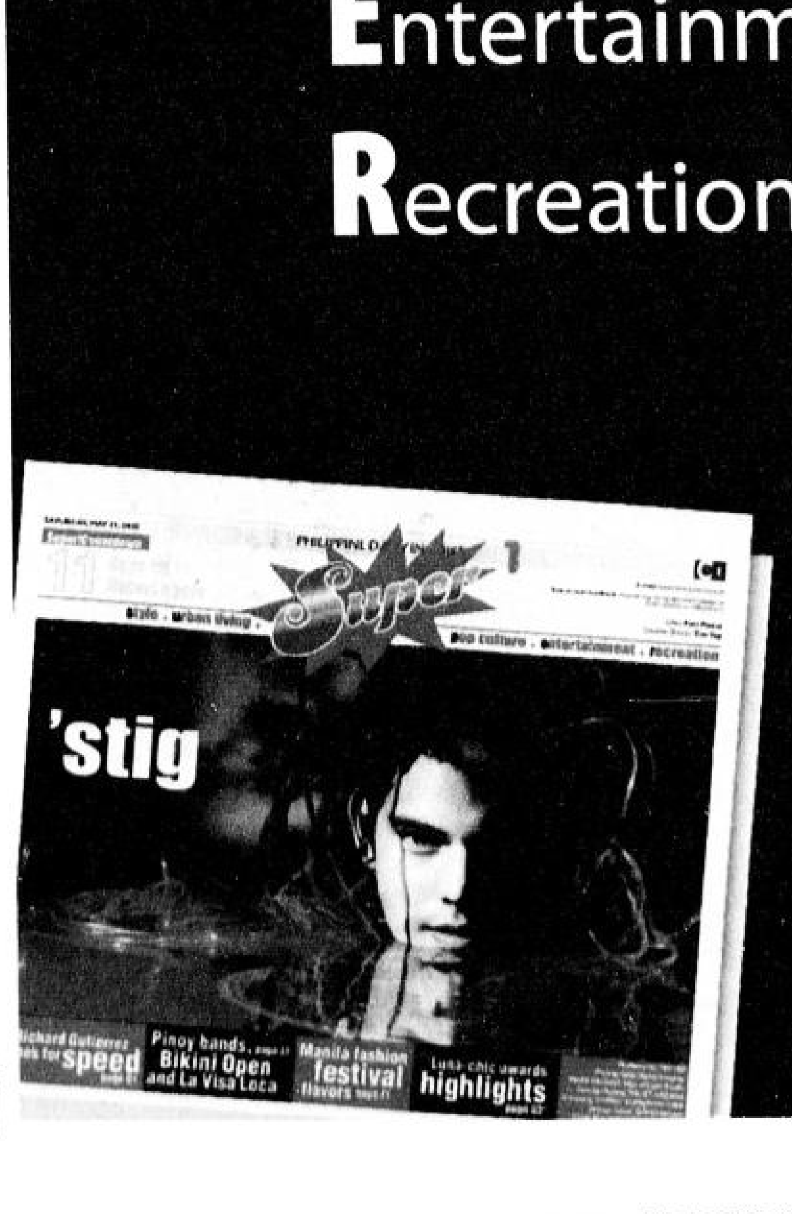

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Adam Sandler eyed for movie on Cebu

BIGFOOT Entertainment's "3 Needles," shot in Thailand, stars Lucy Liu. The company aims to do a lot of movies on Asia, in Asia.

DID YOU KNOW...

IN AN old interview, **Jericho Rosales** said he would like to play "Panday" someday. ABS-CBN's series starring Echo premieres Wednesday. A special on its making airs tonight.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

BIGFOOT ENTERTAINMENT, a Hollywood production company based in Cebu, is eyeing box-office draw Adam Sandler to topbill a movie that will be set in the Philippines.

The movie, "Cockfight," will be the company's first Philippine-made—from principal photography to post-production—project.

Written by Leslie Scott, it was originally set in Mexico.

"We plan to hire Filipino actors as well," said Scott, who met with a handful of Filipino media people recently at the Bigfoot facilities on Mactan Island.

Bigfoot chair Michael Gleissner said his firm was bent on doing "a lot of movies on Asia," in Asia.

"3 Needles," shot in Thailand, was one such project. The media group was treated to a preview of the film on board the yacht of Gleissner, who also served as executive producer, off the waters of Mactan Island.

Starring Lucy Liu, Chloe Sevigny and Stockard Channing, "3 Needles" won Best Direction (for Thom Fitzgerald) and Best Cinematography (for Thomas Harting) at the 25th Atlantic Film Festival in Canada.

Liu portrays a pregnant blood collector in China; Sevigny, a not-so-chaste nun who'll go to great lengths to save her wards in Africa; and Channing, the waitress-mom of a porn star afflicted with AIDS.

Variety described the film: "Sprawling from Montreal to South Africa to China... [it's] a great discussion tool for World AIDS Awareness Day."

In stark contrast to the preview's opulent venue is the film's gritty realism. In exquisitely photographed scenes, it presents a mass circumcision of African tribesmen; the birthing of Liu, alone and au naturel, in a prairie; and a rather icky bloodletting involving Stockard and her son.

"This is a subject that is pretty close to my heart because I lived in South Africa for a time," Gleissner explained. "This is no Lucy Liu action blockbuster."

Under Bigfoot Entertainment is Bigfoot Partners, which has two other projects in the works: "Social Grace," a romantic comedy directed by B.D. Wong and headlined by Margaret Cho, and "The Curiosity of Chance," a coming-of-age film described as a cross between "The Breakfast Club" and "Priscilla Queen of the Desert."

Post-production of "Curiosity," which was shot in Belgium, will be done entirely at BP's International Academy of Film and Television (IAFT) also on Mactan.

Gleissner said the director, Russell P. Marleau, will supervise post-prod and teach at the IAFT.

Timothy Doolen, BP director of Creative Development, explained the focus on Asia: "We want to show audiences that there is more to the region than just kung-fu and ninjas. We definitely want to present Asian culture in a positive light." Doolen previously worked on Dreamworks' "Catch Me If You Can" and "The Ring."

"Bigfoot's goal is to produce movies that will not get made otherwise in the present Hollywood set-up," Doolen said.

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FEEDBACK

OFW raps 'Dubai'

THIS IS ABOUT "DUBAI," STARRING Claudine Barretto, Aga Muhlach and John Lloyd Cruz, recently screened here in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. I must say it is ill-researched.

A person who has a visitor's visa, like John Lloyd's character, can't just drive a car in Dubai. Even if he lands a job—John Lloyd becomes a waiter—it is not easy to get a driver's license and it is very expensive—at times costing the equivalent of $820. Also, the character stays in Dubai after a major car accident. Truth is, if you meet such a mishap here, either you will be deported, or you will land in jail.

Aga Muhlach portrays an employee of a courier company. The scriptwriter did not research on the way cargo is handled here. You don't bodily carry a box, as Aga does many times; you use a trolley.

When Claudine's character decides to leave, she sends home two small boxes. This is not how Filipinos leaving for good send home stuff.

Biggest mistake

The biggest mistake was portraying Aga's character as living alone in a big and beautiful flat. With his supposed job, I can not fathom how he can afford such luxury. The place would easily fetch $16,440 a year.

The characters' recreational activities—for instance, a picnic in the area of Burj al Arab, a seven-star hotel—are hardly affordable for most of us here.

We usually just eat out or window shop.

Because of the high rent, most Pinoys here live six to eight in one room with double-deck beds. Many married Filipino couples can't even have their own room.

As the character of Pokwang does, quite a few have gone into prostitution to indulge their whims. Many resort to gambling, like *jueteng* and *tong-its*.

I am afraid "Dubai" will serve as a magnet for fellow Filipinos to come here—only to realize this is not exactly a place that fulfills all their dreams.

—Victor Canlas, Laboratory Manager, Al-Futtaim Bodycote Materials Testing Services, Dubai International Airport Project Expansion Phase II

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Celia Flor, a picture of contentment

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rudy Esperas
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CELIA FLOR

CELIA FLOR, FORMER LVN STAR, RELishes her retirement. She often lunches with friends, or goes malling with her uniformed assistant, Grace. "We catch movies at the Rockwell," she said.

Celia—Trinidad Teodoro in real life—is the granddaughter of Narcisa "Doña Sisang" de Leon, founder of LVN Pictures.

Pioneering woman director Susana C. de Guzman didn't know Celia was Doña Sisang's *apo* when she spotted her on the studio lot.

"I just accompanied a friend... who wanted to apply as a 'dubber,' for musicals," Celia recalled.

De Guzman liked what she saw and said as much.

Celia, an education graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, was hesitant at first. "I was about to start as a high school teacher."

De Guzman turned to Doña Sisang. "Lola Sisang talked to my *lola*, Natalia Buencamino, her first cousin," Celia told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Doña Sisang was very persuasive. "She asked how much I was going to make as teacher. I said P240. She was unimpressed. She said: 'Even if you teach for two years, you won't earn what I'm offering you.'"

Her first talent fee? "P4,000 per picture!"

YESTERDAY

Cindy fully s

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

MTV VJ AND ACTRESS CINDY Kurleto is a vocal AIDS advocate.

"As a human being, whether you're an artist, a nurse or a bartender, you can take a stand on an important issue like AIDS awareness," she says.

Cindy's mother Faustina Verdilla, a Filipino nurse, worked with HIV/AIDS patients for 17 years in a clinic in Vienna, Austria.

Faustina di
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SHANG CINEPLEX

① FOUR BROTHERS
MTRCB R-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

② THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
MTRCB GP
1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10 LMF

③ WAITING
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

④ DOMINO
MTRCB R-13
12:55, 3:40, 6:25, 9:10 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
MTRCB GP 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 LMF

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1 FOUR BROTHERS
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
R-13

2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
GP

3 DOMINO
11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40
R-13

4 WAITING
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

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DOMINO R13 2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 12:50,3:30,6:10,8:50	WAITING R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
FOUR BROTHERS R13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30	SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL - GP 1:25,3:35 DOOM R13 5:40,7:50	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

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THE FOUR BROTHERS 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
WAITING 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE GHOST INSIDE 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10
DOMINO 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
DOOM 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
ISPIRITISTA 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
② THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 R2 / 2:25 / 5:10 / 7:55
③ THE FOUR BROTHERS 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
④ THE GHOST INSIDE 12:10 R3 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05
⑤ DOMINO 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Nov. 9 Wed. SAN MIGUEL vs STA LUCIA 4:40 pm
COCA COLA vs PUREFOODS 7:25 pm
Nov. 11 Friday SAN MIGUEL vs AIR 21 4:40 pm
GINEBRA vs RED BULL 7:25 pm

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday November 7 2005

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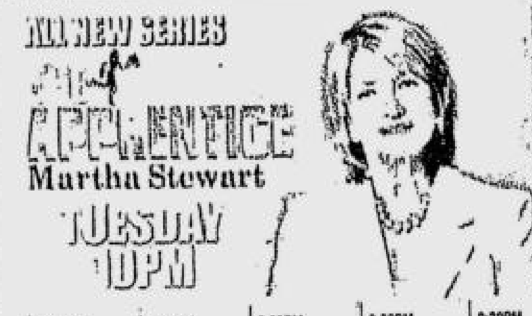

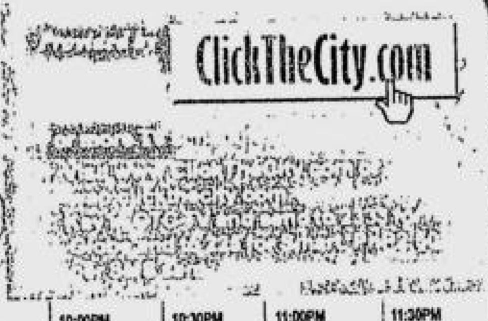

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NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Narula	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Speed		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	The Apprentice		Look Who's Talking	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Ambush Makeover		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Simple Life 2	Cargo For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Family Series		ME TV		Basketball Show		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Friends Again	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
MTV Philippines	Rockola	Artist Of The Month	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten				Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		Ultimate Fighting Championship				NFL 2005						The Tour C'ship Presented By Coca-Cola Final			
Cinemax				Something To Talk About				The Scoundrel's Wife (5:55 PM)			Darkman II The Return Of Durant			Missing In Action			Guarding Tess (10:40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wife Swap		The Maldonado Miracle			Wire In The Blood		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Undetectables		Wild Science		Deadliest Season In The World		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Pin-Ups	
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Planet Wild		From The Heart	Totally Wild	Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe: Eruption At Pinatubo/National Geographic Specials: Kalahari Supercats		Elephant Rage/Hogzilla/Perfect Swarm/Spider Deadly Love		Planet Wild: Status/Survival & Endurance/Fish Locomotion/Mountains & Valleys	Planet Wild: Marsupials/Paradoxons/Trees/Brains & Cleverness/Introductions & Aliens
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty
Nickelodeon	Blue's Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Extra My Crazy Life		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Living Space	Style Star	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Married To The Kellys	Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear/King Of Queens Season 5	Becker	Wonderfalls		Friends	Married To The Kellys
AXN		Next Action Star		Mondo Magic	Worst Case Scenario		E Buzz	Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		Sports Disasters IV		Numb3rs (Season I)		Lost		Lost	
JackTV		South Park	Street Smarts	WWE Heat		WWE Velocity		Charl	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Sweet Spot	Comedy Central Presents	Comedy Central Presents	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
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HBO	Gridlock'd (2:40 PM)				Wilder Days (4:20 PM)			Starship Troopers 2			Identity			Bad Boys				A Thousand Acres	
Star Movies				Bottle Rocket (4:10 PM)			Tuck Everlasting (5:45 PM)				10 Things I Hate About You			Die Hard				Die Hard 2: Die Harder (11:15PM)	
Cinema One		Young Love				American Adobo				Minsan Ko Lang Sasabihin		Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa				Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin			
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matthew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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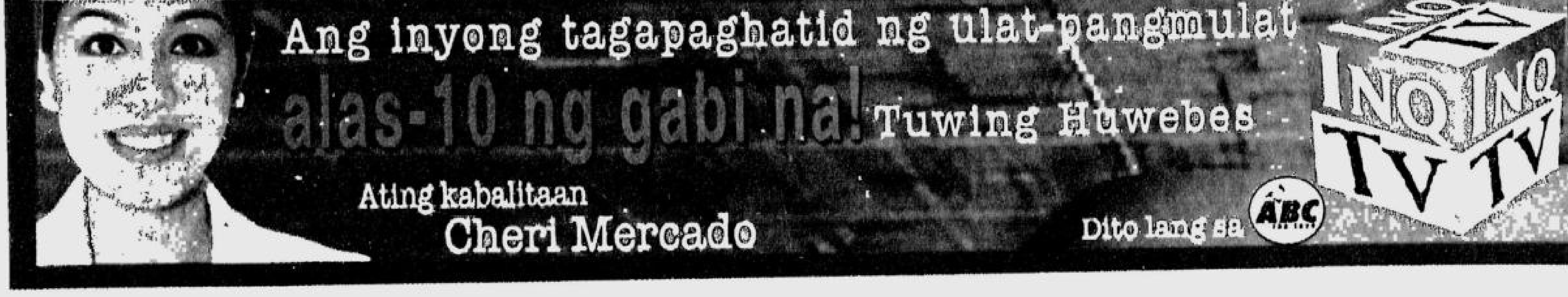
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

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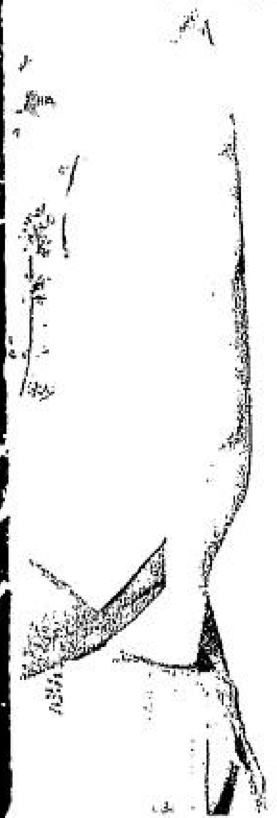
LADIES who lunch. From left, standing—Genny Licuanan, Celia, Loleng Panlilio, Letty Santos, Nenita Evans, Dolly Montenegro; seated—Charing Africa, Baby Price, Mary Prieto, Bading Eraña



Former LVN star quit the movies for her children and never regretted it

WITH Jose Padilla Jr. in "Huk"

On the first shooting day of her debut movie, "Hampas ng Langit," directed by De Guzman and top-billed by Rogelio dela Rosa, Celia almost quit.

"In one scene, Roger was supposed to embrace me from behind. My rear end was inches away from him! I was uncomfortable [and] after 20 takes, Roger got exasperated."

De Guzman had a heart-to-heart with Celia. "She told me it was just acting."

Henceforth, Celia enjoyed the job and had no more problems with her leading men. The list is impressive—Dela Rosa brothers Rogelio and Jaime, Leopoldo Salcedo, Jose Padilla Jr., Armando Goyena, Teody Belarmino and Mario Montenegro.

Salcedo, who played Florante to her Laura, was Celia's favorite. "He wasn't selfish. He'd even turn his back to the camera so his partner would have a better shot."

"Huk sa Bagong Pamumuhay" took her to "faraway Bukidon." Directed by National Artist Lamberto Avellana—a "genius," she said—"Huk" swept the 1954 Famas Awards, winning Best Picture, Best Actor (for Jose Padilla Jr.) and Best Director.

"It was a man's movie," Celia noted. "Decoration *lang ako*." She recounted that Avellana faked a typhoon by using an "aircraft propeller."

Goodwill ambassador

As a star of "Huk," Celia was sent by a Philippine-American association as goodwill ambassador to San Francisco, New York, Washington D.C. and Honolulu. She stayed in Hollywood for three months to observe at the Paramount Studios, where she hobnobbed with Bing Crosby, Joanne Crawford and Deborah Kerr. "I also met director Cecil B. DeMille. He invited me to do a cameo in 'The Ten Commandments' but I couldn't; I only had a tourist visa."

Back in Manila, she compiled her observations on the efficient work system in Hollywood and presented it to LVN head Manny de Leon.

"Sadly, they didn't implement my suggestions. And I did that for free!"

Celia got to use her teacher skills on Nestor de Villa.

"He was handsome, but he stuttered," she said. "I brought him to Luneta and made him read the Liwayway magazine out loud. His tongue straightened up!"

IN "TAPIS Mo, Inday," 1951

When her husband Jose Corominas asked her to quit the movies in 1955, Celia made full use of her education degree at home, as full-time mom to two children—Marie and Jose Jr.

Later, widowed young, Celia single-handedly raised her kids in London, where they graduated from exclusive schools. "I could've remarried 10 times, but I devoted my life to my children. That's why they retained Filipino values."

Even her grandchildren turned out beautifully. "My granddaughter Catherine is taking up Interior Architecture and Business Management at the University of Nottingham. My grandson Edward is studying Finance in Oxford."

Aside from playing host to her *apos* when they visit Manila, Celia gets together with her friends. And these are not idle meetings, either.

"We come up with projects for the needy. For my 80th birthday last year, I asked my friends to send donations to two organizations for the handicapped.

upports MTV's AIDS summit

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uld bring in a bigger number since children are the new focus of the campaign.

"More kids become orphans because of AIDS," Lizette says.

Major theme of the forthcoming music summit is "Unite for Children, Unite Against AIDS." Sponsors are Unicef and UNAIDS.

President Macapagal-Arroyo attended the 2003 launch, when special guest was American pop star Mandy Moore. Last year, Duncan Sheik, The Barbs, Jay Sean and Joshua Payne turned up.

MTV Philippines' managing director Jack Madrid says they'd like more local artists to participate this year.

Bamboo, Christian Bautista, Cueshe, Greyhoundz, Hale, Imago, Kitchie Nadal, Kjwan, MYMP, Rachelle Ann Go, Radioactive Sago Project, Rivermaya, Sarah Geronimo, Sugarfree, Urbandub and Viva Hot Babes have confirmed attendance.

CINDY Kurleto: "You can take a stand, too." JOSEPH AGCAOILI

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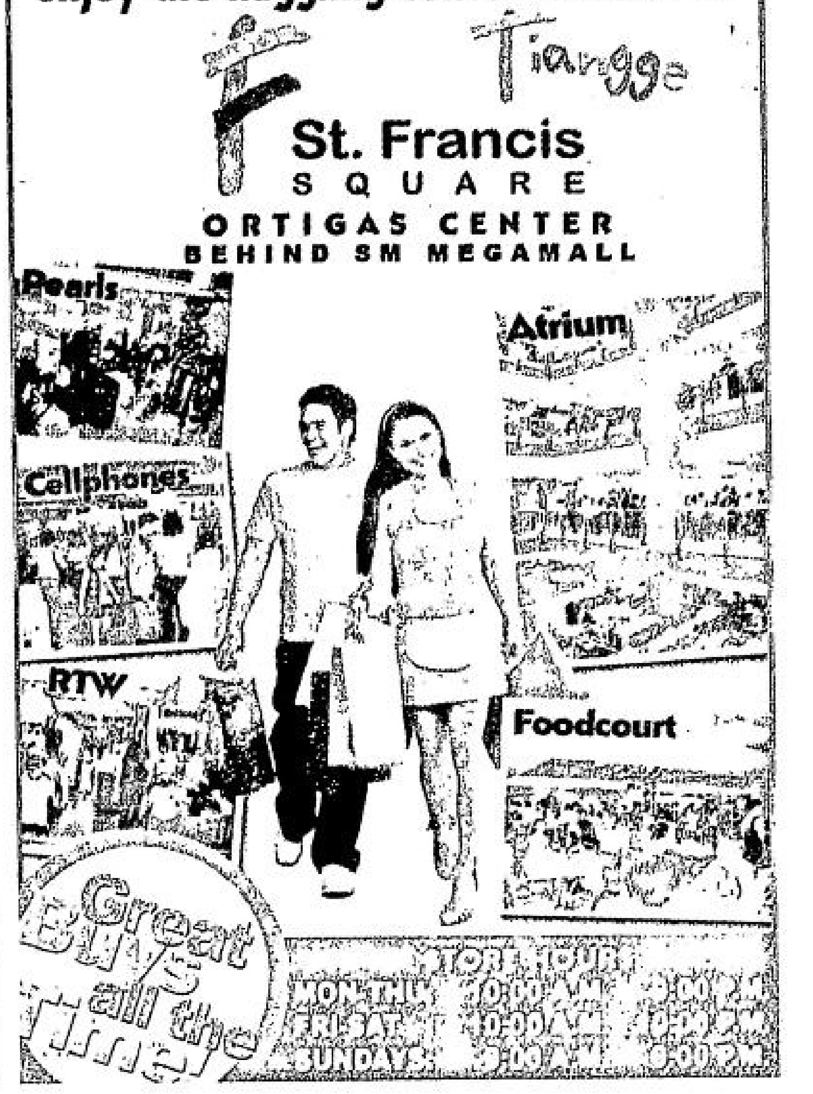

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BUONG PAGMAMALAKING INIHAHANDOG NG GMA
Ang Asian Dramang pinagkakaguluhan sa BUONG MUNDO!
Jewel IN THE PALACE
THE GREATEST ASIAN PHENOMENON IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STORY EVER TOLD
"Ito ang aking kuwento... binuhay ng panahon, hinubog ng pangarap, itinakda ng pagkakataon."
The Grand Philippine TV Premiere
NGAYONG GABI
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6	SUGO	GMA 7	31.8
7	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA 7	31.7
8	KAKABAKABOO!	GMA 7	31.4
9	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR YEAR 2	GMA 7	30.8
10	KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO	GMA 7	30.3

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Asahan po ninyong walang patid kaming maghahatid ng mga programang inyong susubaybayan.

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Kapuso ng bawat Pilipino

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Religious productions on the upswing

IN THE PAST, RELIGIOUS PRODUCTIONS for the stage, TV and film used to be very occasional and seasonal, mostly scheduled around Holy Week. These days, spiritual productions are shown throughout the year, and patronized by more people than used to watch them a decade ago.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Industry observers believe that the current popularity of religious productions is due to the difficulty and complexity of modern life, which is fraught with so many doubts, dangers and temptations. Many more people are searching for direction, clarity, inspiration, illumination and truth, the very hallmarks of genuinely spiritual productions.

True, many people have been turned off by traditional spiritual tableaux, which piously and dryly present superficial renderings of religious tenets and the lives of saints.

These days, experienced theater and film artists have made spiritual productions much more affecting, insightful and human than before, and audiences have responded with appropriate delight and fervor.

On international screens, various productions about the life and achievements of the late **Pope John Paul II** are being shot, or are already being shown.

Some concentrate on his years as a child and young adult; others are being released on TV, or straight to DVD. Whatever the focus or format, public interest in productions about the late pontiff is keen.

Other productions are on **Mother Teresa**, the four Evangelists, and **Jesus** and **Mary Magdalene** (the "Da Vinci Code" movie).

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" is generally credited for prompting this spiritual resurgence in the performing and cinematic arts. His daring film's huge grosses have convinced other producers to come up with more of the same—hopefully, with similar fervor and commitment.

Locally, the CBCP is mounting a play on the life of the much-loved **Pope John Paul II**, "Be Not Afraid," with its first performance slated tomorrow at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the life.

Last Oct. 30, the hit religious musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay," produced at the CCP by **Ramon Orlina** and starring **Cocoy Laurel**, **Tommy Abuel** and **Ivy Violan**, was performed anew in Balayan, Batangas. The acclaimed musical's ongoing performance tour will also cover other provinces in Luzon in succeeding months.

In February, 2006, "Kordero ng Diyos," a play on the passion of Jesus Christ, will also go on tour.

In June, 2006, an opera on the life of **St. Paul** is slated to be mounted.

In addition, there are films being produced on the youthful years of **Jesus**, and on the Marian miracle of the roses in Lipa, Batangas.

And, on Dec. 18, ABS-CBN is telecasting **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**'s "Maging Akin Muli," a tele-movie about a young man (**Marvin Agustin**) studying for the priesthood, and the many troubled people he encounters.

This full schedule of religious productions in the works or already being staged or screened should encourage mainstream producers here to also initiate spiritual shows of their own.

As long as they're well-made and genuinely inspiring, all religious projects are welcome, because there's a huge audience out there in need of illumination.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Nov. 9 at 8:15 a.m., "Lost in Translation." Nov. 10 at 8:15 a.m., "The Untouchables." 12 noon, "Legends of the Fall." Nov. 11 at 9 p.m., "Raiders of the lost Ark." 10:55 p.m., "Gattaca."

On Cinemax, Nov. 9 at 1:30 p.m., "American Gigolo." 9 p.m., "The Firm." Nov. 10 at 6:55 p.m., "Ghost." 2:45 a.m., "The Trouble with Harry." Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m., "Footloose." 9 p.m., "Tears of the Sun." 12:30 a.m., "The People vs Larry Flynt."

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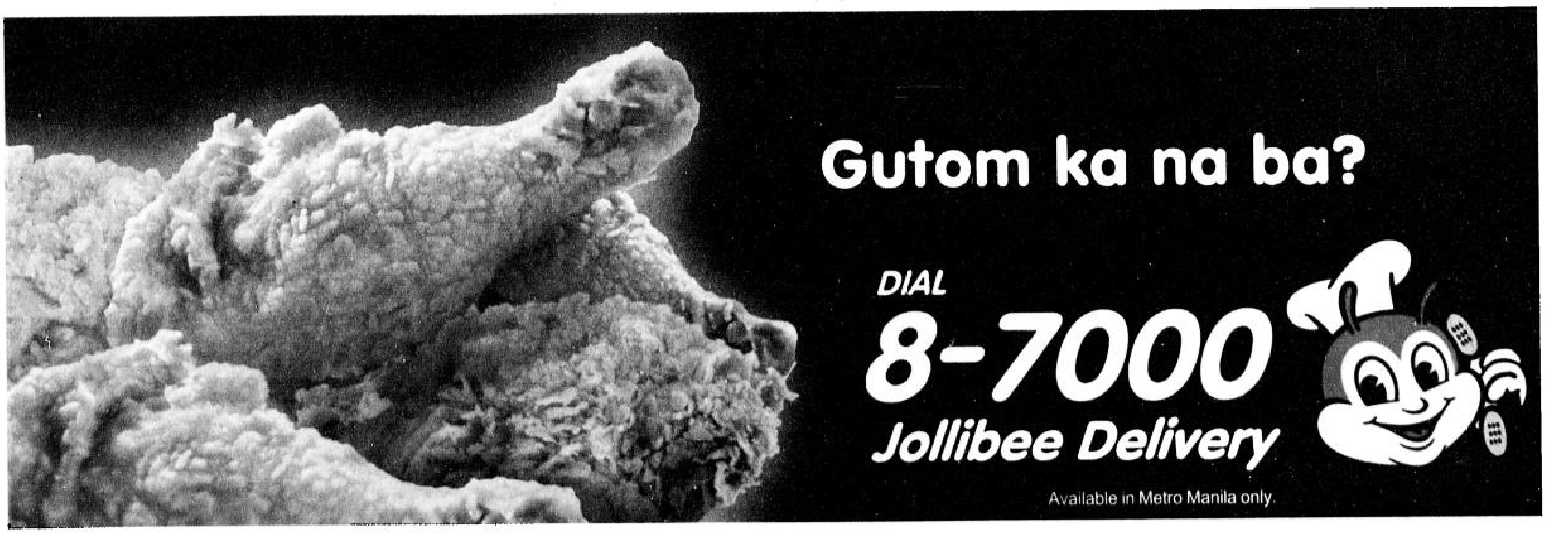

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BIR sets special audit of 4 industries

For claiming excessive VAT credits

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue will conduct a special audit on four industries—telecommunication, manufacturing, logistics and construction—after receiving reports that some companies in these sectors are claiming "alarming" levels of excess VAT credits.

The BIR, under Revenue Memorandum Order No. 27-2005, directed its Revenue Officers-Assessment Group to audit zero-rated sales of companies belonging to the four industries. The audit will cover the taxable year 2004 and the first semester of 2005.

Manufacturing firms to be audited are specifically those engaged in the business of making flour, soft drinks, sugar, cement and plastic. Logistics firms to be audited are those involved in freight, trucking, stevedoring, and courier services.

Zero-rated sales are those made to export-oriented firms or to companies registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza). A zero-rated sale is exempted from the payment of value-added tax, and even allows the seller to refund input VAT credits from the government. The objective is to boost the export sector by preventing exporting firms from shouldering the VAT, which suppliers can pass on to clients.

Input VAT credits are the amount of VAT paid by a company when it purchases a product or a service needed to produce goods or render services.

"There is suspicion that these companies are making excessive claims of zero-rated sales at alarming levels. This (audit) is just to check the accuracy of their claims and to plug tax leakages," Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said in a phone interview.

The BIR said in the memorandum that the auditing personnel would use third-party sources of information to detect dishonesty or to verify claims of zero-rated sales. Third-party sources of information include clients of firms that are subjected to the audit.

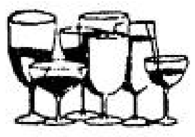
BIR officials said the use of third-party sources has been one of the best tools in detecting tax cheats.

The revenue agency said it

BIR SETS/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Japanese confidence in RP dips further /B4



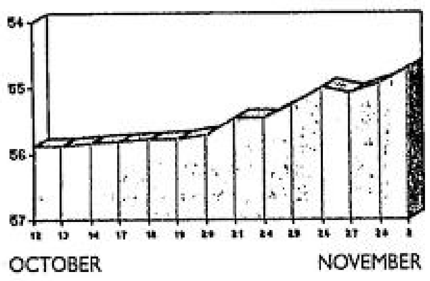
Tallest towers, highest pools /B3

Filinvest group to develop P2-B resort complex in Mactan /B6

NFA palay procurement falls below target /B14

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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₱ 54.63 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 3, 2005

¥ 116.83 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 2, 2005

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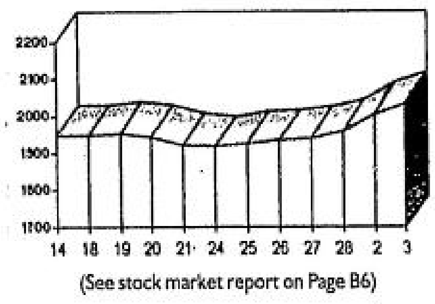
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 3, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Bullish run seen to continue

STOCKS ARE EXPECTED TO STAY BULLISH this week, still elated by the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law, analysts said.

The new VAT law, a critical fiscal reform program, took effect on Nov. 1 after months of delay and stiff opposition from different sectors.

The new sales tax law removed the VAT exemption on electricity, oil and the transport sectors. It also authorized President Macapagal-Arroyo to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent from the current 10 percent starting January.

The corporate income tax was also raised to 35 percent from 32 percent.

"The euphoria in the market will continue. Implementation of key fiscal reforms, positive earnings results by listed companies, a strong peso and declining world crude prices are enough ingredients to sustain the rally," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at investment firm First Grade Holdings Inc.

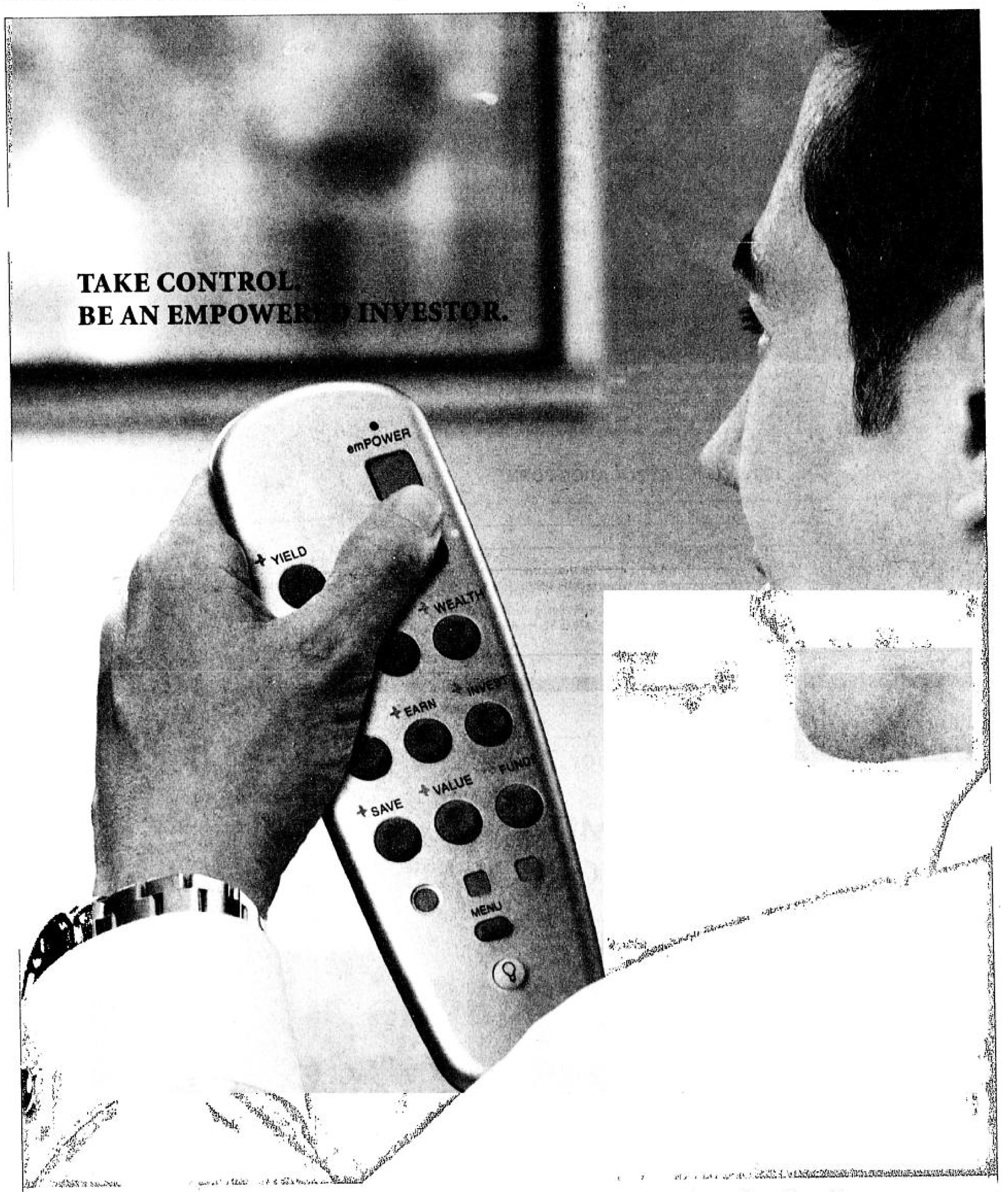
Despite a two-day trading session last week, the composite index rose 90.24 points or 4.65 percent to 2,031.70, its best finish in three months.

However, Del Castillo cautioned that there might be some profit taking early this week given the market's recent highs.

Aside from the successful implementation of the VAT, the market should continue its bullish streak given another positive economic development: the continued increase in overseas Filipino workers' remittances that are expected to exceed $10 billion this year, according to Alfred Dy, head of research at CLSA Philippines Inc.

"The stock market should continue its upward momentum with 2,060 as near-term resistance. Foreign inflows will push the market higher on positive news on the VAT implementation and third-quarter positive corporate earnings," added Paul Joseph Garcia,

BULLISH/ B3



The power to grow your wealth is rewarding. This is especially true in a constantly changing and dynamic investment environment. That's why you need to be ready to act as the investment market upgrades from Common Trust Fund (CTF) to Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF).

It would be wise, then, to take a closer look at the UITF made available through the American Express Bank Peso Cash Plus and Dollar Wealth Plus Deposit Accounts.

UITF	Available through American Express Bank	Earnings per Annum (as of 10/20/05)*
Philippine Dollar Fixed Income Fund	Dollar Wealth Plus Account	11.40%
Peso Short Term Fixed Income Fund	Peso Cash Plus Account	8.43%

*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

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AMA to put up university in Dubai

AMA EDUCATION SYSTEM IS PUTTING up a university that will cater to the growing education needs of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. The 5-hectare facility will provide AMA's IT-based learning programs primarily to Dubai, the foremost commercial center of the United Arab Emirates and the hub of progress in the Middle East and North African regions.

The Dubai Silicon Oasis (DSO), which is being managed by Shiekh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai, entered into an agreement with Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V, AMA founder and chair, to develop the school.

"The tie-up was borne out of our recognition of DSO's state-of-the-art infrastructure and liberal regulatory framework. These factors are what prompted AMA to invest in such a conducive business environment. AMA is probably the first educational institution to establish a high-tech educational facility in DSO, one of the most progressive and developed cities in the Middle East," Aguiluz said. The DSO has exclusively invited two companies to invest in DSO, one of which is AMA.

Aguiluz, who is also the Philippine special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council, said this would strengthen AMA's position as the first IT university to expand internationally.

The project will start in February or March 2006. It will be completed and fully operational in time for the 2006 school year opening in September.

Women and the economy

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

WHEN OUR FAMILY GOES OUT FOR DINNER, when I bring our dirty clothes to the corner laundry to be washed, or when their teachers teach my children their lessons in school, these activities add to the nation's reported gross national product (GNP).

When my wife cooks our family dinner, does the laundry, or helps the children with their homework, none of her efforts ever gets valued nor enters any economic accounts. Outside our own household, her true worth to the economy will never be fully appreciated.

Women contribute to the economy far more than what most people are aware of and what are recorded in the economic accounts. Perhaps as a consequence of this, their status in economic life has always been lower than that of men.

The evolution of the modern economy appears to be changing all this. Key trends shaping the nature of the economy at the global, national and local levels have impacts on the economic role and status of women in both positive and negative ways. These major economic trends include globalization, the rise of the Knowledge Economy, and resurgence of small enterprises.

Globalization trends

Globalization is reshaping the relative roles of women and men in economic life. The globalization process provides greater mobility for workers and expanded employment opportunities overseas. But this trend is accompanied by a growing proportion of women in non-standard work such as temporary, casual, multiple, contract and home-based employment. Thus, while globalization is raising the quantity of women's recognized contributions to economic life through the labor force, the quality of their participation still needs to be seriously considered and addressed.

Women also now dominate labor migration, with nurses, caregivers, and especially domestic workers making up a substantial portion of such labor movement coming from Asia, particularly the Philippines. This has also led to changes in the host countries, where household work has been restructured from traditionally unremunerated work by housewives to a more formal economic activity undertaken by foreign domestic workers. This has in turn increased the labor force participation by women in general. While this may be seen as a positive trend especially from the point of view of the host economy, it comes at the cost of fracturing the families of the women migrant workers, along with the often tremendous social costs this entails.

Knowledge advantage

The second major economic trend is the dominance of information and communication technology (ICT) in the "New Economy" that has emerged in the 21st century. The basis for wealth creation in the modern economy is changing from the traditional "bricks and mortar" to "clicks and portals". The more successful firms in the Knowledge Economy are those who have better access to information and knowledge, and no longer those who are in possession of greater fixed capital including real estate. This could be a positive factor for women, inasmuch as they now dominate tertiary education, as statistics in European and Asian countries would show. In the Philippines, 53.2 percent of college and university students are female. Thus, for as long as there is no gender gap in access to ICT, women seem to have the advantage in numbers to cash in on the knowledge-based economy.

SME resurgence

The third economic trend, which has to a large extent been facilitated by the second, is the resurgence in importance of small enterprises. With rapid developments in ICT, modern societies have seen a widespread return to small enterprises including home-based ones, even as globalization has also increased the number of transnational corporations (TNCs). Small firms that provide products ranging from services to manufactured goods are proliferating world wide. This has become possible because ICT and electronic commerce permits them virtually equal access to the global markets vis-à-vis their much larger counterparts, with savings in overhead costs compensating for their lack of economies of scale.

This trend has created wider opportunities for integrating formal economic activities with unremunerated domestic work, whether for men or women, but especially for the latter. Having to devote time for rearing children and managing the household need not deprive women anymore of the opportunity to become entrepreneurs. It's not a one-sided situation either. The same trend also implies that men are increasingly able to participate more equitably in child rearing and home management, while still engaged in gainful enterprise.

Cultural biases

What needs to be overcome are the traditional cultural biases against women taking a more active role in formal economic life, and men taking a more active role in home and family management. Steps must also be taken to avoid a "gender divide" in ICT. And in the case of women employed in the "old economy," whether as workers or managers, there is a need to eliminate the unfair wage differentials between men and women that still persist.

My wife runs a non-profit school and some community outreach projects along with it, balancing all that with managing our home, seeing to our five children's welfare, and responding to my sometimes unfair demands as a husband. She earns just a fraction of what I make. Given what she contributes to our economy and society, I often feel it should be the other way around. *Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

COA says gov't investment in Napocor bonds 'questionable'

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) SAID the national government's move to invest in bonds issued by the cash-strapped National Power Corp. in the past years was imprudent, saying it was not only legally questionable but also contributory to the state's huge losses.

In a report, the COA said the government used borrowings—through the flotation of bonds—to buy the Napocor debt paper. It noted that the government incurred P40.69 billion in liabilities to pay for interest on the bonds it floated, but that it only earned P39.82 billion worth of interest income from the Napocor bonds it bought.

The COA commented that bond investments were generally those secured with corporations of strong financial standing. The fact that Napocor is a known heavily losing firm made the decision to invest in its bonds unwise, the audit agency said.

"The (auditing) team could not be provided with information on how these investments had been decided on and whether there was an evaluation/study of the viability of making said investments," the COA said in its report.

It also said the government had to shoulder P615 million worth of expenses for underwriting discounts, commissions and other expenses entailed in its bond flotations abroad. These costs, which should not have been incurred if the government did not invest in Napocor bonds, were hurtful to the government, which was already suffering from a fiscal problem.

The government's loss in investing in Napocor bonds is best reflected in the fact that it absorbed P200 billion worth of debts of the power firm to comply with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), which intends to develop the power sector by, among others, cleaning the books of Napocor.

Considering that the P200-billion Napocor debt absorbed by the national government is composed of the bonds issued by the power firm to the government itself, the COA said that the government therefore could no longer collect the supposed interest income from the bond investment.

The agency said the lost interest income arising from the absorption of Napocor's debts stood at P165.94 billion.

The auditing agency likewise stressed that the move of the national government, through the Department of Finance (DOF), to invest in Napocor-issued bonds was legally questionable. It said the DOF could not provide sufficient legal basis to its initiative to invest in the bonds.

The COA report said the DOF cited RA 245 as the legal basis for the national government's move to invest in Napocor bonds. But the auditing agency said that RA 245 authorized the national government to engage in some borrowings and not to invest in Napocor bonds.

In response, the DOF said it secured a favorable legal opinion from the Department of Justice, and that the opinion was its basis in investing in Napocor bonds.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is in charge of international financing, said that while the COA was correct in commenting that Napocor was not a financially strong corporation to invest in, it was the role of the national government to help the power firm given that it was part of the government.

Proceeds from Napocor bonds were mostly used to cover the firm's financing requirements.

Tan also said that it was not seriously imprudent for the government to have invested in Napocor bonds, explaining that had the government invested its funds, say in US treasuries, its interest income could have been lower.

BIR sets special . . .

From page B1

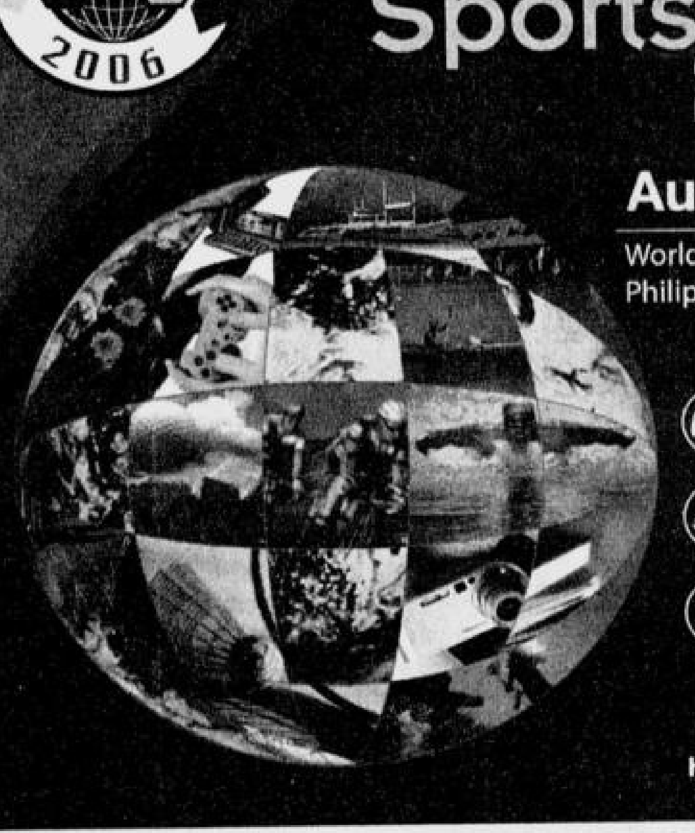
would issue assessment notices (ANs) to assigned officers once it detects a firm to have declared excessive zero-rated sales. An AN is a document informing a taxpayer that it has unpaid tax liabilities, and requiring the taxpayer to rectify tax payments.

The move to audit the zero-rated sales of the four industries followed the implementation of the new VAT law starting last Nov. 1.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR, earlier said it wanted to make sure the government collects the expected revenue from the tax measure. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the DOF wanted the BIR to plug possible leakages in the VAT system so as not to defeat the purpose of raising more revenues through the new VAT law.

The new VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting January 2006.

The DOF estimated that it could collect between P4 billion and P5 billion in the remaining months of this year, and P81.4 billion in additional revenues annually starting next year from the new VAT law.



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Victor C. Agustin

NOT ONLY IS THE KUOK/SHANGRI-LA Group building the tallest condominiums in the country, the hotel/property empire is also furnishing the penthouse units their very own private pools.

To be launched on Wednesday, the 60-story, twin-tower The St. Francis will be built on what is now the open car park and the police outpost adjoining the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

According to the grapevine, the two upper penthouse units on each of the twin towers measure 450 and 500 square meters each, large enough to each accommodate a 3.5m-by-10m lap pool. These private pools are in addition to the 8m-by-10m common pool at the conjoined 8th floor of the twin towers, which will also house the residents' gym and function rooms.

At an average price of P79,000/sq.m. (VAT inclusive), the bigger penthouse unit will cost a cool P39.5 million. The still-to-be-built condos at Rockwell, in comparison, cost around P80,000/sq.m., while The Fort's fast-rising Serendra is hitting around P90,000/sq.m.

The St. Francis will have 1,200 units in all, a veritable mini-city of studios and one-two-bedroom apartments that mall rats will be happy to note will be connected, Hong Kong-like, by elevated and, get this, air-conditioned walkways not only to the Shangri-La mall but to the MRT station and the Shangri-La hotel as well.

The studio units range from 38 to 45 sq.m. floor areas, as against the typical 25-28 configurations. The average local luxury hotel room, incidentally, ranges from 28 sq.m. for Dusit to 38-40 sq.m. for Makati Shangri-La.

At 38 sq.m., a St. Francis studio will cost a little over P3 million.

One final small print. The Kuok/Shangri-La Group has committed to deliver the twin towers to unit owners by October 2008, three years from now.

Baby, it's cold inside

THE NEW St. Francis's Square in Ortigas (no relation to The St. Francis condos of the Kuok-Shangri-La Group) must be the coldest mall in town.

Salesgirls, especially in the basement stalls, not only have donned pullovers, but have also taken to wearing caps and hoods to fight the chill being continuously blasted by the brand-new air-conditioning system.

To build the mall, what developer Luke Roxas did was to integrate the landmark McDonald's outlet in the intersection and make it appear as part of the new building.

Right next to the mall are the unfinished twin condo-buildings with distinctive pyramid steel towers, also another Roxas project, which should be relaunched soon now that the developer has climbed out of the 1997-debt hole.

Money-go-round

- DDB does Dimacali: Advertising agency DDB Philippines has snagged the newly re-

COCKTALES/ B4

Bullish ...

From page B1

chief investment officer of ING Investment Management.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., agreed that the market might also draw fresh inspiration from good corporate earnings this week.

"I expect it to be bullish also because of a seasonal run-up to a Santa Claus rally," Roxas said, referring to the buying spree normally seen in the stock market toward the end of the year.

Set to release their third-quarter earnings this week are telecom giants Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecom, Ayala Corp. and its property arm Ayala Land, and food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

Garcia said the market's support was pegged at 1,980 and its resistance level at 2,060. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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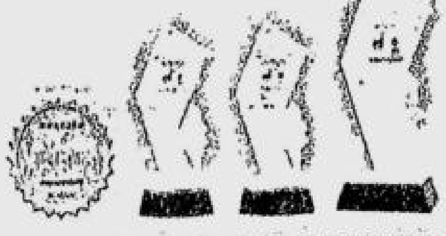

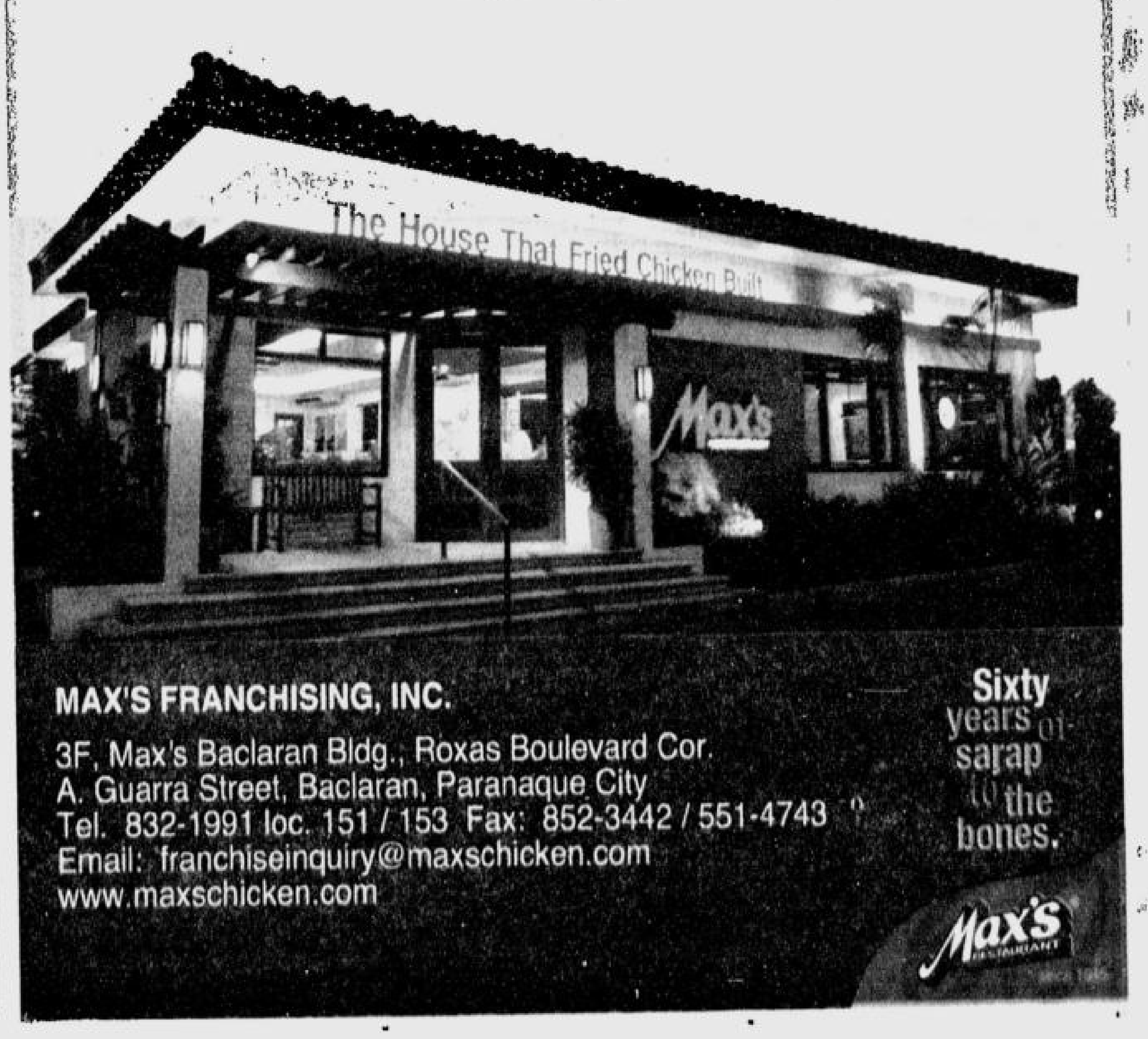

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The truth about truth

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH about presidential electoral fraud, *jueteng* gate and the Garci tapes continues. Now, a farcical trial by a so-called People's Court convened by a comical People's Congress is about to be unfurled.

All these truth seekers should watch the classic Japanese movie "Rashomon." Filmed in 1950, it won instant international acclaim. The movie is now on DVD.

The movie was director Akira Kurosawa's first of many classic films he made in a brilliant career spanning over 50 years. Toshiro Mifune's riveting portrayal of the lead role as the bandit catapulted him into international stardom.

The story is set in medieval Japan, at a time of intrigue and turmoil. A man is killed and his wife raped. A woodcutter finds the dead body in a grove in the forest. He reports the incident to the authorities. The investigation by the high police commissioner draws four different versions of what happened.

The woodcutter, who had no reason to lie being an innocent bystander, testified that the body was lying flat on its back dressed in a bluish silk kimono and a wrinkled headdress of the Kyoto style. A single sword stroke had pierced his breast. The woodcutter said he saw no sword, only a rope at the foot of a cedar nearby. The man must have made a battle of it before he was murdered, because the grass and the fallen bamboo blades had been trampled down all around.

A notorious bandit confessed that he had killed the man. Why should he lie about his guilt? All he wanted, he said, was the woman. He never meant to kill the husband. The bandit had lured the couple to a grove in the forest. He overpowered the man, and tied to a nearby cedar. Then the bandit forced himself on the woman. Afterwards, the woman said she could not go back to her husband with her shame. She said the bandit had to kill her or her husband. The bandit gave the husband a chance to fight for his life. He untied the husband and killed him in the ensuing sword fight.

The wife—why should she lie?—told a different story. After violating her, the bandit left. She went to her husband to free him. But her husband looked at her with such scorn. He said he could no longer live with her. He told her to kill him. She stabbed him with a dagger. Then she ran away and tried to kill herself but she failed. Now, she said, she had to live through life with the double shame of having been violated by the bandit and killing her own husband.

Through a medium, the dead man had his own version. Left alone in the grove, he thought his wife had abandoned him for the bandit. He managed to free himself. Shamed by his wife's infidelity, he stabbed himself with his wife's dagger. Before he died, he felt the dagger being drawn from him. Dead men tell no lies, right?

The movie does not end with the police high commissioner's verdict. The moviegoer is left to arrive at his own verdict. Kurosawa asks, "You seek the truth? Take your pick."

Japanese confidence in RP dips further

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONFIDENCE LEVEL OF JAPANESE businessmen in the Philippines dipped to negative 5.7 in October after showing signs of recovery in the previous month, according to a monthly survey by the Japan External Trade Organization.

Jetro reported that Japanese companies and affiliates doing business here thought worse of the country compared to a month ago when they gave it a diffusion index (DI) rating of negative 4.5.

The survey, however, was conducted before the Supreme Court lifted the restraining order on the expanded value-added tax law. The survey aims to provide up-to-date information on business conditions in Asian countries to help companies develop more effective business strategies.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes in their business outlook for the current month and the next two or three months ahead. The answers are expressed in DI (diffusion index), which is the difference in the ratios of positive and negative responses.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with year-ago levels.

Jetro said the country's ratings went counter to the overall rating for the five original members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which "rose 2 percentage points to enter the positive range for the first time in three months."

Business sentiments rose in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. Indonesia's rating declined to 5.2 from 8.6.

Malaysia's rating was also negative although it improved in October to negative 11, from negative 18.2.

Confidence in the Philippines is expected to improve in the next two to three months, although the rating is seen to remain negative, at negative 4.3.

Based on results of previous polls, the Philippines posted a DI of 1.9 in January, which dipped in the following months to as low as negative 8.6 percent in June.

Philippine-based respondents in the survey included 208 firms engaged in businesses involving oil, chemicals, steel, metals, electric and electronic machinery, transportation machinery and other manufacturing concerns as well as construction, real estate, transport, communication, commerce, services and other non-manufacturing activities.

INSURANCE MAN OF THE YEAR
AIG Philippines country head and Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr. was named Insurance Personality of the Year at the 9th Asia Insurance Industry Awards held at the Ritz Carlton Milenia Hotel in Singapore. The awards were organized by two of the insurance industry's most respected publications: Singapore-based Asia Insurance Review and London-based The Review Worldwide Reinsurance magazine. The first Filipino recipient of the award, Cuisia was recognized for his performance at the helm of the country's leading insurance company, Philamlife, and for introducing significant reforms in the insurance industry. Cuisia received his award from Reinhard Thoennissen, deputy chief executive officer and general manager of Treaty Division, Allianz AG Reinsurance Branch Asia Pacific.

Cocktales . . .

From page B3

signed chair of its sister agency BBDO, Susan Dimacali, this we have confirmed.

Dimacali has agreed to join DDB as vice chair and group chief marketing and group chair of the executive committee after the inconclusive talks with ABS-CBN, which had considered her to head the network's marketing division.

• ASIDE from books, Fully Booked is seriously expanding into music retailing, and has already imported US bar code machines that allow customers to listen to each of the CD's songs for 30 seconds each by simply waving the CD through the scanner.

• JUPITER Arms, the boutique hotel on Jupiter Street right off Makati Avenue, has been sold by the Pizarros, the family that also owns Papagayo's, the former Nina Papagayo's Mexican restaurant that has been relocated to the other side of the busy intersection, in another low-rise building also owned by the Pizarros.

Pizarro sisters Connie and Olivia have expanded the pioneering Papagayo menu to include Thai dishes, and are planning to venture with packaged tour groups by converting the adjoining bar for such meal destinations.

Heard through the grapevine

THE COMMON denominator of the signatories to the full-page pro-Cory ad that appeared last Wednesday is that many of the signatories, other than being Cory-era government officials/business supporters/hacienderos, are recipients of the Rockefeller travel and fellowship grants.

In addition to Makati Business Club's Guillermo Luz, one of the active solicitors for the ad was socialite Susan Reyes, who managed to round up a number of media personalities to affix their signatures.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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Japanese firm eyes wind farm project in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

A JAPANESE GROUP WITH NO existing business in the Philippine energy sector is keen on investing in the development of wind power resources in the country.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the group was currently "exploring" several investment opportunities in the country, including wind power and mining.

The Department of Energy has identified 17 wind sites with a total potential capacity of 500 megawatts (MW) for development by interested parties.

In Luzon, the potential sites include Bani and Bolinao in Pangasinan with potentials of 40 MW each; Tagaytay in Cavite with 30 MW; Donsol-Jovellar with 70 MW, Donsol and Pilar with 40 MW each and Matnog with 10 MW, all in Sorsogon; and Pandan in Catanduanes with 30 MW.

Visayas wind sites to be offered for development are Dumangas in Iloilo with a potential of 50 MW; Siquijor with 10 MW; Carmen and Oslob in Cebu with 20 MW and 30 MW, respectively; Allen-Lavezares in Northern Samar with 10 MW; and Tomas Oppus in Southern Leyte with 10 MW.

The lone wind site in Mindanao to be offered for development is in Gigaquit in Surigao Del Norte with a potential of 30 MW.

Lotilla had earlier said that the country still had a huge amount of wind potential that just had to be harnessed.

According to data from the DOE, the country's total wind potential is placed at around 70,000 MW.

Despite the interest in wind power development, Lotilla said the Japanese group had expressed concern over the relatively low rates of National Power Corp.

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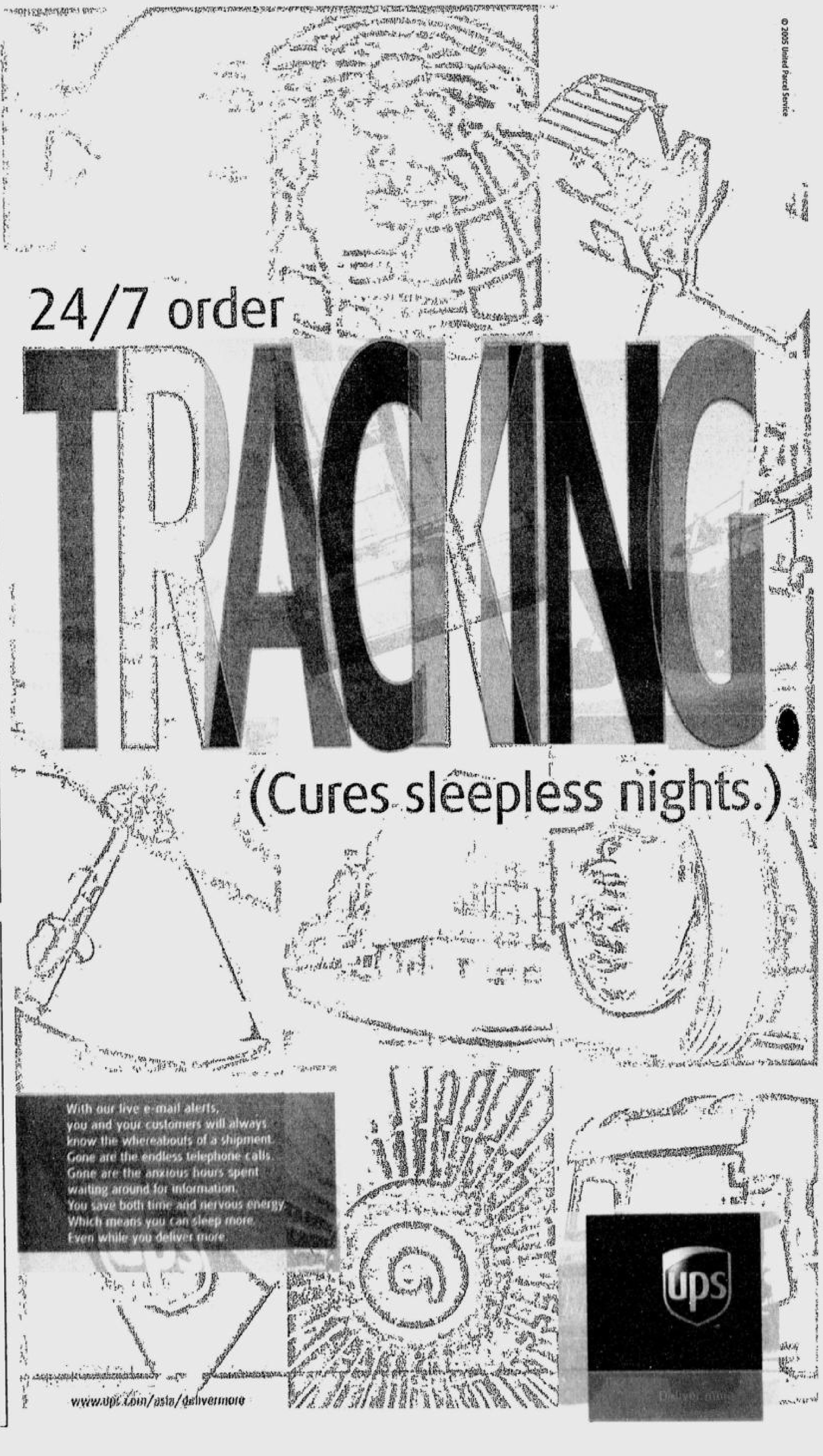

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Filinvest group to develop ₱2-B resort complex in Mactan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING FIRM FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp. is spending roughly P2 billion for the development of a 12-hectare resort and beach club on Mactan Island to be dubbed "Seascapes", an official of the group said.

FDC's Timberland Sports and Nature Club vice president for business development Lennie Mendoza said the project would be launched toward the end of the year and the first phase would be completed by 2007.

The development of the beach resort will include 69 lots for private homes, a beach club and spa, a condominium complex that may be used as a retirement home, casitas and villas.

The first phase of its casitas segment is targetted to be completed by 2007, with a beach club groundbreaking early next year. The development period is spread over five years.

The Filinvest Leisure Group is adding Seascapes to its list of successful projects that include The Palms & Country Club in Alabang, a three-hectare oasis within the city.

In a separate development, the World Bank's private sector arm, International Finance Corp., announced last Friday that it had disbursed a P2.25-billion loan to Filinvest Land, the real-estate unit of the Filinvest Group. The disbursed tranche of the peso fixed-rate loan has a maturity of eight years. IFC funded this tranche by entering into an eight year Philippine peso/US dollar cross-currency swap transaction with the Manila-based branch of a major commercial bank. The cross-currency swap transaction executed by IFC was one of the longest swaps executed in the onshore market in terms of maturity. While the loan addresses the local currency needs of Filinvest, the swap transaction also encourages local capital market development.

"IFC is delighted to have undertaken this long-term peso-dollar swap to fund Filinvest Land," said IFC vice president and treasurer Nina Shapiro. "This loan provides Filinvest Land with long-term Philippine peso financing without foreign exchange risk. It also contributes to local capital market development by using a long-term transaction executed in the onshore Philippine peso/US dollar swap market," said IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat.

IFC's loan will contribute to increasing the availability of mortgage financing to more lower and middle income buyers in a market dominated by government-owned financial institutions and commercial banks.

As one of the premier housing development companies in the Philippines, Filinvest has been rapidly extending mortgage financing to homebuyers, including many unable to obtain mortgages from other sources. The loan will be supported by a technical assistance program, funded by IFC, to assist Filinvest in improving credit policies, loan management procedures and risk management systems in its mortgage operations.

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Manila Polo	2,175,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	370,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	720,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	300,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	550,000	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	200,000
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US group signs up local call center firm

TELESOURCE INTERNATIONAL OF THE United States has signed up local firm Win-Source Solutions Inc. as its outsourcing contact call center provider.

Telesource International Director Jim McCubin, who signed the contract with Win-Source, said that experts regarded the Philippines as the best location for American companies to outsource call center services.

McCubin said Telesource selected Win-Source as its campaign provider "because of their agents near flawless American accent that gave them an edge over the other call centers who were under consideration."

Commenting on the Philippine call center industry, McCubin said the Philippine call center industry was currently growing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the world.

He said Telesource International would continue to outsource in the Philippines because of its strong affinity for American culture, adding that the Philippines had an ample supply of English-speaking, computer and web-savvy college graduates who view contact center work as a career.

McCubin noted the support of the Philippine government to the outsourcing call center business.

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,250,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp *	-	300,000/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	550,000	510,000
Calatagan Golf	Pls. Call	-
Camp John Hay	170,000	-
Canlubang Golf	-	500,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	400,000	-
Club Filipino	110,000	90,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	180,000/260,000**	150,000/250,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	110,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,300,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	2,150,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	360,000/700,000*	-
Makati Sports Club	-	180,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	400,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	90,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*	150,000/250,000**
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/250,000**	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Spa & Lodge	550,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,150,000/1,600,000*
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Subic Yacht Club	Pls. Call	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	380,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	600,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,400,000	6,000,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 3, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32.5	32	32	541,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	56.5	55.5	56	1,420,100
China Banking Corp.	610	615	605	605	620
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.65	0.59	0.65	9,520,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	268,700
International Exch. Bank	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27.5	26.5	27	238,300
Philippine National Bank	30.5	31.5	30.5	31	253,600
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	213,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29.5	29	29.5	64,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2835	2835	2830	2830	50
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	144,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2020	2010	2020	710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	14.5	13.75	14.5	82,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.91	3,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	735	725	725	42,310
Ipeople Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	102,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.15	6,166,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1715	1745	1715	1740	197,720
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	1,600,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	37,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	14	13.5	14	28,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	20.75	21.25	788,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	17,313,000
Petron Corp.	3.65	3.7	3.6	3.7	7,441,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9	709,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	300,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.61	0.56	0.61	4,340,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.65	3.85	3.65	3.75	1,895,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	13,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39.5	39.5	38.5	39	651,900
Pancake House Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	30,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	45,500
San Miguel Corp. B	90	92	90	92	70,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	305	310	305	310	482,980
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5.1	4.95	5.1	1,010,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.22	2.28	2.22	2.28	3,365,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	1,110,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	1,174,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	460,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	4,440,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	1,728,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	843,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	43.5	44	892,700
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	38,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.85	153,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.44	12,554,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	800,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	39,030,000
Paxys Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	922,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	151,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	90,000
SM Investments Corp.	240	243	239	241	429,850
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	4,540,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,600,000
Pryce Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.92	820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	120,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	275,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14	14.5	14	14.5	259,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,800
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	29,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	9	8.8	8.9	4,936,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	4,650,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	8,310,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	3,924,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	3,330,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	370,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	112,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.2	13,333,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	35,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	144,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	7.8	7.8	16,000
Benguet Corp. B	29	29	29	29	1,900
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	7,860,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	13,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	51,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	242,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	2,341,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.3	5,369,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	45,400
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	70,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	152,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	870,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	12,685,680	141,177,375.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	167,338,360	964,104,905.00
PRO	39,185,000	164,514,210.00
Mining	358,297,300	19,367,700.00
OIL	2,092,000	754,750.00
SME	10,000	7,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	579,608,340	1,289,925,940.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	580.36	DOWN 1.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,193.71	UP 52.81
PRO	782.55	UP 4.48
Mining	2,482.55	DOWN 3.68
OIL	3.08	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,229.63	UP 10.86
Composite	2,031.70	UP 24.58

NO. OF ADVANCES: 50; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 116; NO. OF TRADES: 3,960

CURRENCIES

November 6, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828500	1.000000	54.8010
Japan	Yen	0.007092	0.008560	0.4691
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472411	1.777200	97.3923
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106870	0.128992	7.0689
Switzerland	Franc	0.648026	0.782167	42.8635
Canada	Dollar	0.703371	0.848969	46.5244
Singapore	Dollar	0.489368	0.590667	32.3691
Australia	Dollar	0.613931	0.741015	40.6084
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.199306	2.654562	145.4727
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220928	0.266660	14.6132
Brunei	Dollar	0.487927	0.588928	32.2738
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020297	0.024498	1.3425
UAE	Dirham	0.225577	0.272272	14.9208
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.207000	66.1448
Argentina	Peso	0.277090	0.334448	18.3281
Brazil	Real	0.369701	0.446229	24.4538
Denmark	Kroner	0.133977	0.161710	8.8619
India	Rupee	0.018338	0.022134	1.2130
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219442	0.264866	14.5149
Mexico	New Peso	0.077214	0.093197	5.1073
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573754	0.692521	37.9508
Norway	Kroner	0.128316	0.154878	8.4875
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013894	0.016770	0.9190
South Africa	Rand	0.124766	0.150593	8.2526
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.000962	0.0527
Sweden	Kroner	0.103867	0.125368	6.8703
Syria	Pound	0.015960	0.019264	1.0557
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024699	0.029812	1.6337
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000388	0.000386	0.0255

RP to raise $3.1B via bond floats

Seen to boost 2006 BOP surplus, BSP's forex reserves

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO raise $3.1 billion through foreign bond offerings in 2006.

The amount will account for 48 percent of the government's total borrowing requirements, according to official documents.

The new commercial borrowings are expected to boost the country's balance of payments surplus next year to $900 million.

The borrowings are also seen to boost the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' gross international reserves to between $18 billion and $18.6 billion next year, up from a projected $17 billion by the end of this year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The country's BOP has been shored up by strong dollar inflows from migrant remittances, exports and investments.

The latest external projections presented to the Monetary Board indicated that next year's bond proceeds would be the same as the $3.1 billion programmed this year.

Aside from commercial borrowings, the government expects to generate more foreign exchange from projects funded by multilateral lenders like the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan explained that the expected $3.1-billion bond proceeds for next year would still represent a 48-52 percent borrowing mix, the bulk of which would come from domestic sources.

He said the projected commercial borrowings would answer even the borrowing requirements of the National Power Corp.

This year, Napocor is raising a total of $500 to $600 million from the offshore bond market.

"(Foreign borrowing requirement) will be about the same for Napocor or even less next year," Tan said.

Investment bank Morgan Stanley has recommended an "overweight" position on Philippine debt.

"The economics story and, in particular the fiscal and BOP story, looks very good—and this has definitely been an anchor for the Philippines over the past 12 months," the bank said in a recent commentary.

However, Morgan Stanley said that the noise on the political front has weakened President Macapagal-Arroyo, even if she was successful in dodging the impeachment storm for now.

"In our view, President Arroyo ... will improve her survival chances and, more importantly, give the country its best shot at addressing the structural roots of the fiscal problem," the report said.

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Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	US$ 1.0264	US$ 1.0238
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0046	US$ 1.0042

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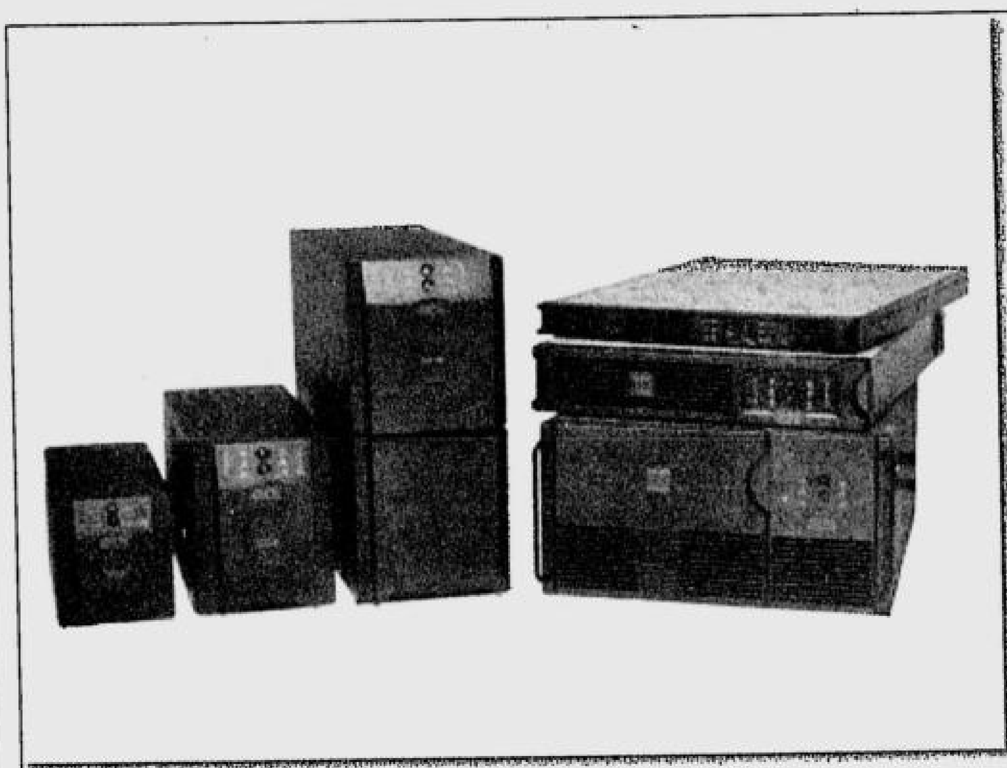

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APC Smart UPS Features & Benefits	YES
Power Management	☑
Power On/Off Switch	☑
Automatic Voltage Regulation (AVR)	☑
LED Status Indicators: Easier at a glance UPS status management	☑
LED Status Indicators: Level of Battery Charge	☑
LED Status Indicators: Load Level	☑
LED Status Indicators: Automatic Voltage Regulator	☑
LED Status Indicators: Hi & Lo Voltage	☑
LED Status Indicators: Online	☑
LED Status Indicators: On Battery	☑
LED Status Indicators: Overload	☑
LED Status Indicators: Replace	☑
Power Management over the Network	☑
Scheduled Shutdown Time	☑
UPS & Environmental Management	☑
Predictive Failure Analysis	☑
Runtime Scalability	☑
Rackmountable	☑
Temperature - Compensated Battery (Charging Prolongs battery life by regulating the charge voltage according to actual battery temperature)	☑
Generator Compatible- Ensures clean, uninterrupted power to protected equipment which generator power is used	☑
Network Manageable	✓

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312 SQM	P 1,305,000
331 SQM	P 1,395,000
398 SQM	P 1,800,000

VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC. TOWNHOMES, TAMBO LIPA CITY (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
35 SQM	P 61,250
55 SQM	P 96,250
65 SQM	P 105,000
80.5 SQM	P 141,680

GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD. SAN PASCUAL BATANGAS (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
30 SQM	P 60,000
81 SQM	P 162,000
120 SQM	P 240,000
153 SQM	P 306,000
182 SQM	P 364,000
225 SQM	P 450,000
239 SQM	P 478,000

VILLA ADELINA III, BGY. BULILAN SUR, PILA, LAGUNA (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
100 SQM.	P 120,000
120 SQM.	P 108,000
189 SQM.	P 212,625
273 SQM.	P 328,000
675.99 SQM.	P 540,792

ATLA RESIDENCIA DE BACOOR SUBD. BACOOR, CAVITE (VACANT RSDL LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
238 SQM.	P 1,000,000
296 SQM.	P 1,400,000
306 SQM.	P 1,400,000
338 SQM.	P 1,500,000

MANILA SOUTHWOODS CARMONA, CAVITE (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
456 SQM.	P 2,502,000
503 SQM.	P 2,263,500
1,000 SQM.	P 4,500,000

CAPITOL HILLS EXEC. SUBD. TRECE MARTIRES, CAVITE (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
39 SQM.	P 40,500
53 SQM.	P 55,650
74 SQM.	P 77,700
184 SQM.	P 193,200

BATANGAS

BL-1 – 2 STRY. HOUSE & LOT
LA 294 sqm. FA 202 sqm.
P. Aguila St., HOLY FAMILY SUBD.
Cuenca
Min. Bid Price: P 1,060,000

BL-2 – 2 STRY. HOUSE & LOT
LA 235 sqm FA 238 sqm
Brgy. Pallocan, KANLURAN
Min. Bid Price: P 3,240,000

BL-3 – HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,184 sqm. FA. 182.5 sqm
Brgy. Latag, LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,754,160

BL-4 – HOUSE & LOT
LA. 4,000 sqm. FA. 268 sqm.
Brgy. Antipolo del Norte
LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 5,085,200

BL-5 – HOUSE & LOT
LA. 735 sqm. FA. 227 sqm.
Interior Kap, Simeon Luz St.
LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,806,809

BL-6 – SCHOOL BLDG.
LA 1,440.00 sqm. FA 872 sqm
MIRACLE HEIGHTS SUBD.
Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 8,900,000

BL-7 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 442.5 FA 246. 5 sqm
SAN SEBASTIAN SUBD.
Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000

BL-8 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 546 sqm. FA 144 sqm.
Sta. Clara Cor. Therese sts.
MABINI HOMES
Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000

BL-9 – 2 STRY. UNFINISHED TOWNHOUSES
LA 2,070 sqm. (20 units)
Kalipulako Granja, LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 9,800,000

BL-10 – HOUSE & LOT w/COMM'L BLDG.
LA 194.20 sqm. FA 266 sqm
No. 204 P. Torres St.
LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 3,350,000

BL-11 – COMM'L BLDG. W/ SHOWROOM
LA 725 sqm FA 210 sqm
National Road., Maraduy
LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 5,400,000

BL-12 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 291 sqm FA 218
Magnolia cor. Jasmin Sts. DIZON VILL.
Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,070,000

BL-13 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 2,343 sqm (total)
Dona Aurora / Adelfa Sts.
CITY PARK SUBD., LIPA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 7,750,000

BL-14 – VACANT LOT WITH DEMOLISHED 2-STOREY HOUSE
LA. 240 sqm. FA. 134 sqm.
CAEDO SUBD.
Kumintang (Sambat), Ibaba
Min. Bid Price: P 570,000

BL-15 – FACTORY BLDG.
LA 324 sqm. FA 306 sqm
GLORIA CMPD SUBD Tanauan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,485,000

BL-16 – 2 STRY. HOUSE & LOT
LA 455 sqm. FA 240.8 sqm
Gladiola St., CITY PARK SUBD.
Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,730,000

BV-1 – CMM'L LOT
LA 6,666 sqm
Brgy. Puling Balo West, CALACA
Min. Bid Price: P 5,400,000

BV-7 – AGRI-LAND
LA 22,500 sqm
Bo. Balaytigue, NASUGBU
Min. Bid Price: P 1,100,000

BV-9 – CMM'L LOT
LA 452 sqm
GUALBERTO AVE.
Poblacion, Rosario
Min. Bid Price: P 4,900,000

BV-10 – VACANT LOT
LA 2,009 sqm
Provincial Road
Brgy. Namuco, ROSARIO
Min. Bid Price: P 2,998,000

BV-11 – VACANT RSD'L LOT
LA 239 sqm
ARTIKA HEIGHTS CMPD.
Brgy. 10, Sabang, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 695,000

BV-13 – VACANT LOT
LA: 129 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 258,000

BV-14 – VACANT LOT
LA: 129 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 258,000

BV-15 – VACANT LOT
LA: 129 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 258,000

BV-16 – VACANT LOT
LA: 308 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 616,000

BV-17 – VACANT LOT
LA: 167 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 334,000

BV-18 – VACANT LOT
LA: 178 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 356,000

BV-21 – VACANT LOT
LA: 208 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 416,000

BV-24 – VACANT LOT
LA: 240 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 480,000

BV-25 – VACANT LOT
LA: 378 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 756,000

BV-28 – VACANT LOT
LA: 197.50 sqm
GOLDLAND ROYALE HOMES SUBD.
San Pascual
Min. Bid Price: P 358,000

BV-59 – VACANT LOT
LA: 65 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 13,750

BV-60 – VACANT LOT
LA: 59 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 113,750

BV-61 – VACANT LOT
LA: 59 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 113,750

BV-71 – VACANT LOT
LA: 64 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 112,640

BV-74 – VACANT LOT
LA: 64 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 112,640

BV-81 – VACANT LOT
LA: 65 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 104,000

BV-82 – VACANT LOT
LA: 65 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 104,000

BV-83 – VACANT LOT
LA: 75 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 132,000

BV-84 – VACANT LOT
LA: 69.3 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 121,275

BV-88 – VACANT LOT
LA: 68.7 sqm
VILLA BEATRIZ EXEC.
TOWNHOMES, Tambo, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 120,225

CAVITE

CL-1 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,526 sqm. FA 92.6 sqm.
Brgy. Cabuco, TRECE MARTIRES CIY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,500,000

CL-2 – RSDL BLDG.
LA 1,812 sqm.
No. 167 Toclong 1, Brgy. Toclong, IMUS
Min. Bid Price: P 4,500,000

CL-3 – 2 STRY. INDSL/RSDL BLDG.
LA 247 sqm. FA 337 sqm.
No. 1 M.L. Quezon St.
ZAPOTE VILL.
Brgy. Aniban, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 1,200,000

CV-1 – VACANT LOT
LA 376 sqm.
EAGLE RIDGE, Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,052,800

CV-2 – VACANT LOT
LA 200 sqm.
TOWN & COUNTRY SUBD.
Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price: P 500,000

CV-3 – VACANT LOT
LA 230 sqm.
#8 Nevada St., METRO SOUTH
SUBD., Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 550,000

CV-4 – VACANT LOT
LA 276 sqm.
DREAMLAND. SUBD.
Uniwide Coastal City
Bo. Timalan, Naic
Min. Bid Price: P 450,000

CV-8 – VACANT LOT
LA 400 sqm.
Orchard Residential Estates
and Golf & Country Club Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

CV-9 – WHOLE SUBDIVISION
LA 34,425 sqm. (121 rsdl. lots)
Bo. Cabuco, TRECE MARTIRES CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 11,513,600

CV-10 – VACANT RSD'L LOT
LA 644 sqm.
ZAPOTE VILL.
Brgy. Aniban, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

CV-25 – VACANT LOT
LA 200 sqm . (2 lots available)
RAMOS FARM SUBD.
Brgy. Daang Amaya, Tanza
Min. Bid Price: P 300,000 each

CV-27 – VACANT RESD'L LOT
LA 600/640 sqm.
Bo. San Agustin
TRECE MARTIRES CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

LAGUNA

LL-1 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 257 sqm FA 126.92 sqm
Wild Rice St., BERMUDA SUBD.
Banlic, Cabuyao
Min. Bid Price: P 955,836

LL–3 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 360 sqm FA 192 sqm
DOÑA EUSEBIA SUBD.
Del Remedio, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,300,000

LL-4 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 706 sqm FA 327.48 sqm
NEW CITY SUBD., Brgy. San Roque
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

LL- 5 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 503 sqm FA 126 sqm
NEW CITY SUBD II., Brgy. San Roque
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,257,500

LL-6 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 96.96 sqm. FA 150 sqm
V. Ac-Ac St., PAETE
Min. Bid Price: 345,977

LL-7 – RSD'L LOT
LA 633 sqm. w/ an unfinished bungalow
Anacleta St., CASA REAL, Pakil
Min. Bid Price: 208,000

LL-8 – VACANT LOT
LA 1,311 sqm
ESTIVA CMPD. A. Mabini Extn.
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

LL-9 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 2,062 sqm FA 460 sqm
Doña Perfecta & Don Placido
Sts.,VESCO SUBD.
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 4,720,125

LL-10 – AGRILAND w/ POULTRY HOUSES
LA 10,603 sqm
Brgy., Santisimo, Rosario
SAN PABLO CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,120,600

LL-11 – AGRILAND w/ POULTRY HOUSES
LA 9,180 sqm.
Brgy., Bautista
SAN PABLO CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000

LL-12 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 315 sqm FA 160.15 sqm
IMMACULATE CONCEPCION CMPD.
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

LL-13 – OFFICE WAREHOUSE
LA 10,792 sqm FA 101 sqm.
Brgy., San Jose, STA. CRUZ
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

LL-14 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 181 sqm FA 128.6 sqm
SAN ANTONIO SUBD.
Linga, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 400,000

LL-15 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 264 sqm
Park Drive St., MARYMOUNT SUBD.
Anos, Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 1,404,304

LV-1 – VACANT LOT
LA 431 sqm
Interior P. Guevarra, Poblacion
STA. CRUZ
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

LV-2 – VACANT LOT
LA 428 sqm
Lot 199 G Interior P. Guevarra St.
STA. CRUZ
Min. Bid Price: 1,000,000

LV-3 – VACANT LOT
LA 664 sqm
MARINO SUBD., San Lucas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,062,400

LV-4 – VACANT LOT
LA 1,311 sqm (3 lots available)
ESTIVA CMPD., A, Mabini Extension
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000 / P 6,000,000

LV-7 – VACANT LOT
LA 173 sqm
LAKECITY SUBD., San Gregorio
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

LV-8 – VACANT LOT
LA 3,335 sqm
Brgy. Canlalay, BIÑAN
Min. Bid Price: P 4,800,000

LV-9 – VACANT LOT
LA 480 sqm
SILMER SUBD., Bo. Halang, Biñan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,160,000

LV-10 – VACANT LOT
LA 7,551 sqm
Brgy. Dambo, PANGIL
Min. Bid Price: P 906,120

LV-12 – VACANT LOT
LA: 131 sqm
VILLA ADELINA PHASE II
Bgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 128,000

LV-13 – VACANT LOT
LA: 134 sqm
VILLA ADELINA PHASE II
Bgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 128,000

LV-16 – VACANT LOT
LA: 186 sqm
VILLA ADELINA PHASE II
Bgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 179,200

LV-17 – VACANT LOT
LA: 273 sqm
VILLA ADELINA PHASE II
Bgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 328,000

LV-18 – VACANT LOT
LA: 144 sqm
VILLA ADELINA PHASE II
Bgy Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 163,500

LV –28 – VACANT LOT
LA 180 sqm
JAMAICA HILLS SUBD. Bambang
Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 532,800

LV-29 – VACANT LOT
LA 180 sqm
JAMAICA HILLS SUBD. Bambang
Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 540,000

LV-30 – VACANT LOT
LA 390 sqm
SPRINGDALE SUBD.
Tadlac, Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 1,248,000

ORIENTAL MINDORO

OL-1 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,346 sqm FA 124 sqm
National Rd., Brgy. Calaningan
SOCORRO
Min. Bid Price: P 693,445

QUEZON

QL-2 – WAREHOUSE / OFFICE BLDG.
LA 39,062 sqm
Brgy. Mayabobo & Masalacot 3
CANDELARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 6,027,225

QL-3 – RESD'L BLDG., & WAREHOUSE
LA 2,000 sqm. FA 276 sqm.
National Road, Brgy. Malabanban
CANDELARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 5,434,200

QL-5 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 280 sqm FA 210 sqm
Sampaguita St., ZABALLERO SUBD.
Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,200,000

QL-6 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 331 sqm FA 210 sqm
SAN RAFAEL SUBD., Dalahican
Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 573,903

QL-7 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 311 sqm FA 185 sqm
Madrid Extn. UNIVERSITY VILL.
Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,552,095

QL-8 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 180 sqm FA 154 sqm
Australia St., BETTER LIVING SUBD.
Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 707,750

QL-9 – 2 STRY. HOUSE & LOT
LA 125 sqm FA 143 sqm
STEPHEN CMPD.
Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 712, 500

QL-10 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,540 sqm FA 70 sqm
Cattleya St., STEPHEN CMPD.
Bgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,335,360

QL-11 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 72 sqm FA 72 sqm
Aguilar St., LUCENA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 338,130

QL-12 – HOUSE & LOT
LA 159 sqm FA 127 sqm
LOVELY VILL., Bo. Wakas, Tayabas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,032,000

QV-1 – VACANT LOT
LA 6,485 sqm.
Bgy. Malabanban Norte
CANDELARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,459,262

QV-2 – VACANT LOT
LA 27,033 sqm.
Bgy. Mayabobo-Masalukot
CANDELARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,817,048

QV-3 – VACANT LOT
LA 20,150 sqm
Brgy. Bulakin, DOLORES
Min. Bid Price: P 3,778,125

QV- 4 – VACANT LOT
LA 7,732 sqm.
Bgy. Domoit, LUCENA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 6,186,240

QV-5 – VACANT LOT
LA 546 sqm.
ST.PETER SUBD.
Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 819,000

QV-6 – VACANT LOT
LA 264 sqm.
RIDGEWOOD SUBD.
Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 752,400

QV-7 – VACANT LOT
LA 1,400sqm
Provincial Road, Gulang-Gulang
LUCENA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 6,720,000

QV-8 – VACANT LOT
LA 237 sqm.
Quezon St., CIUDAD MAHARLIKA
Bgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 492,960

QV-9 – VACANT LOT
LA 203 sqm.
Juan Luna St., CIUDAD MAHARLIKA
Bgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 578,550

QV–10 – VACANT LOT
LA 2,096 sqm.
Bo. Iyam, LUCENA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,512,000

QV-11 – VACANT LOT
LA 216 sqm
HL BRIONES SUBD., Bucal Pagbilao
Min. Bid Price: P 100,000

QV-12 – VACANT LOT
LA 3,740 sqm
Brgy., Tumabaga, SARIAYA
Min. Bid Price: P 420,750

QV–13 – VACANT LOT
LA 480 sqm.
Mansayon St., San Francisco District
LUCENA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 588,000

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MetroPac eyes stakes of foreign firms in MNTC

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO PACIFIC CORP. IS working on buying out the foreign stakeholders of Manila North Tollways Corp. after the Lopez group decided it was not ready to divest itself of its stake in the North Luzon Expressway project, a company official said.

The unit of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd in the Philippines is planning to acquire the stakes of French firm Egis and Australian firm Leighton in the Nlex project of MNTC.

Lopez-owned First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. controls 70 percent of MNTC. Egis of France has 13 percent and Leighton Asia Ltd. of Australia has 16.5 percent. State-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. accounts for only 2.5 percent of MNTC.

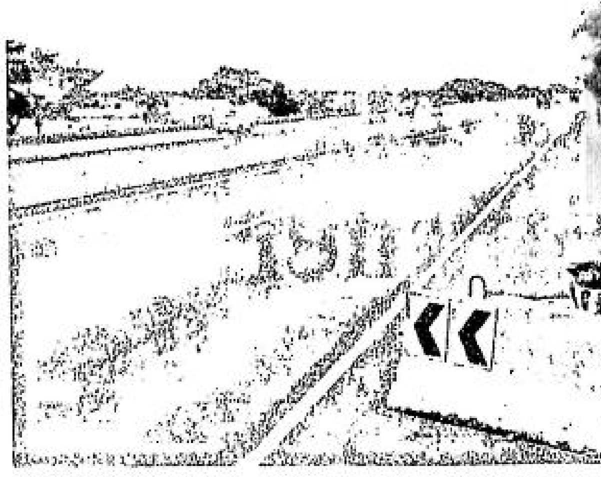
The Lopez group earlier said it was selling its stake in MNTC, which drew interest from the local subsidiary of First Pacific.

Metro Pacific president Jose Ma. Lim said his company was very interested to buy into Nlex and the Skyway project.

The holding firm early this year offered to acquire control of the Skyway venture from the Indonesian firm that built it. "We are still waiting for their response," Lim said.

As for Nlex, he said the Lopez group seemed not willing to sell its stake so Metro Pacific initiated talks with the foreign stakeholders.

"We are now talking with the Australian and the French groups because we heard they are considering to divest," he said in an interview. "The Lopezes seemed not willing to sell at this point."



LOPEZES keeping interest in Nlex

MNTC said the cost of upgrading and rehabilitating the 84-kilometer Nlex reached $371 million, of which creditors financed 68 percent or $253 million.

MNTCs Tollway Management Corp. will operate the Nlex for 30 years starting 2005.

"We hold a minority position in Metro Manila Skyway and we believe there is a potential to increase our equity participation there as well as in other toll projects that are now open for joint partnership and development," said Lim in August.

In Skyway, Lim said Metro Pacific had made an offer early this year to restructure Skyway's finances, including the loans it had incurred and had soured, in exchange for a bigger stake in the project.

Talks with the Indonesian group controlling the ailing highway venture are still ongoing, he said.

The Skyways is a 9.3-kilometer elevated highway running from Magallanes to Bicutan. It is owned by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., a joint venture of Indonesian firm P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada and the state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp.

Citra's contract with the government supposedly involved three stages, which when completed, should have provided an elevated highway from Makati City all the way to Alabang while the ground level from Sucat to Alabang and Magallanes to Bicutan should have been rehabilitated.

Lim said moving into the next phase would involve about $200 million in funding.

Metro Pacific chair Manuel Pangilinan said his company would like to take off from the Skyway project to develop contiguous roads leading to South Luzon provinces.

"If we are allowed to tackle the second phase, that would give us more than 50 percent in the Skyway venture. But resolving issues in the existing project is crucial," said Lim.

Malacañang urged to adopt measures in aid of SMEs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FRESH FROM LAST MONTH'S PHILIPPINE Business Conference, the country's largest business group is now urging Malacañang to adopt measures that will promote small and medium enterprises.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the group recommended several proposals to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

One such proposal is to fast-track the implementation of an SME Surety Fund, which will complement existing financial programs for SMEs.

"We are tapping P1 billion for this fund," Dee said. "This [will] provide SMEs access to capital at more liberal terms, and will focus more on business viability rather than collateral."

Another proposal is for the Philippine Games and Amusement Corp. to release the balance of P270 million allotted for the Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBE) Development Fund as provided by law.

"The BMBE law provides for the establishment of a P300-million fund, the interest earnings of which can be used by the SME Development Council to implement much-needed programs," Dee said.

The third proposal comes in the form of enhanced technology and better packaging for the products of SMEs, with the cooperation of the Department of Science and Technology.

Also, PCCI suggested the improvement of the Business Match-Ups Thru Internet (Bumuti) Project to expand the market for SMEs.

Dee said the proposed enhancement of existing programs would further boost the competitiveness of local enterprises.

"While the country had lagged behind its neighbors in helping the SMEs become globally competitive, there is still great potential for local entrepreneurs because of the country's inherent natural and human resources," he said.

First Gen to sell bulk of IPO shares to foreign buyers

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST GENERATION CORP, THE HOLDING company of the Lopez group's power generation firms, is considering selling to foreign investors about 80 percent of the shares set aside for its initial public offering.

Informed sources said the underwriters of First Gen had asked the Philippine Stock Exchange for clarification on this plan since trading volumes in the stock market had been driven largely by foreign buying.

As this developed, the PSE has also cleared the way for First Gen to pursue its application for an IPO saying the bourse's "chainlisting rule" does not apply to First Gen, a subsidiary of listed firm First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC).

A review of FPHC's financial statements showed that it only has a 37 percent stake in First Gen's assets, PSE president and chief executive officer Francis Lim said on Friday.

Under the PSE's chainlisting rule, a subsidiary or parent company of a publicly-listed firm will not be considered suitable for listing if the assets and operations of the applicant company are substantially the same as those of the listed firm.

In assessing the applicant firm, the PSE will consider its business or commercial reasons for listing.

"In terms of operations and investments, First Gen focuses its investments on power generation while FPHC invests in divergent industries," Lim said.

First Gen plans to offer its shares at between P51 and P74 a share. Its book value is pegged at P24.49 while its price to earnings ratio was estimated at between P4.63 and P6.72, sources said.

First Gen will hold an IPO in December to raise P11.22 billion.

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No major executive changes in SunPhil, says new owner

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES CORP. LTD., the Singapore-based buyer of IT Holdings Inc. (ITH) in the Philippines, said there will be no changes in the positions of key executives of Sun Microsystems Philippines (SunPhil).

Responding to e-mailed questions, Frontline Corporate and Marketing Communications Senior Manager Adeline Tan said the company will retain Cynthia R. Mamon, wife of ITH Chair Mario O. Mamon, as president of SunPhil.

"There will be no major changes. Also, Ms Cynthia Mamon will remain the President and Managing Director of SunPhil," Tan said in her e-mail.

Frontline announced October 10 its 100-percent acquisition of ITH, whose 49-percent ownership of SunPhil it had already bought in July 2001.

MAMON is still head honcho at Sun's office in the Philippines.

SunPhil is a subsidiary of Silicon Valley-based technology company Sun Microsystems Inc.

Tan said Frontline had considered buying the entirety of ITH in the last two years. She added the deal would take effect starting June 30 next year when SunPhil starts its fiscal year.

The deal will run for the next three years and is subject to SunPhil achieving a three-year "earn-out" condition wherein it should earn no less than $1 million in profits per year.

The deal involves Frontline purchasing 255,000 shares of ITH, initially paying $250,000 in cash and paying the balance of $550,000 in the next three years.

Tan stated in her e-mail that Frontline discussed the deal only with ITH and not with its Silicon Valley partners for the SunPhil joint venture.

"IT Holdings does not have US partners. We involved Sun Microsystems Inc. in the discussions," Tan said.

On the other hand, ITH had partnered with Sun Microsystems Inc. in the United States to create SunPhil.

A SunPhil representative had previously said there would be an official announcement soon, after it gets an approval from the US mother company.

VoIP to kill traditional billing schemes: PISO president

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VoIP) will soon change the way service providers bill customers for making calls, a representative of a Philippine-based group of Internet service providers said.

"I believe that billing by time and distance will die with VoIP," said William Torres, president of the Philippine Internet Service Organization in a forum hosted by the Philippine Internet Commerce Society.

"Our concept of distance and time will disappear since we now share the same infrastructure, which is IP, with VoIP," he added.

While the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has yet to issue the final implementing rules and regulations on an earlier memorandum deregulating voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Torres urged Philippine telephone companies offering VoIP to consider a subscription scheme for VoIP services.

Subscription, Torres stressed, is an emerging model for billing VoIP services, as this innovation is also considered an Internet service.

"Subscription is a good model for VoIP, just as subscription model is for Internet services. With that, VoIP becomes part of a virtual marketplace of different services," the Philippine Internet veteran said.

VoIP essentially uses a shared infrastructure, which is the Internet. For this reason, making calls using VoIP is cheaper than traditional phone services that rely on proprietary and "private" networks built by telephone companies.

The NTC has declared VoIP a value-added service early this year, paving the way for local companies to provide this service without the need to get Congressional franchise.

However, the agency is not yet accepting applications from potential VoIP providers until it comes up with a "checklist" of requirements for application.

Filipino teachers make learning literature fun with technology

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE high school students appreciate literary classics like "To Kill a Mocking Bird" or "The Little Prince"?

Since today's students are generally reading less, the majority sees learning literature in a traditional classroom setup bland, and worse, uninteresting. It is indeed a daunting task for Filipino English teachers to force kids to read.

Two Filipino teachers have shown however that, with technology and a blend of creativity, kids can and will find time to read classics, given the right motivation and tools.

Cecilia Estoque, an English teacher for seven years at Agusan National High School and one of the winners of the recent Philippine Innovative Teachers Leadership Awards of Microsoft, showed how she used technology and the Internet to encourage students to read and eventually discuss Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince."

This touching and creative story of a man who meets an extraordinary boy and relearns what it means to be a child is a classic in French children's literature.

Estoque had hoped to encourage students not only to read "The Little Prince" but also relate their own experiences with this classic novel.

She asked her students to write journals about their own personal encounters and post some of what they've written on "The Little Prince" online. Her students and other students from local schools eventually shared their own "personal encounters" with "The Little Prince" with other students online. Soon she will ask her students to extend the dialogue with students in the United Kingdom.

"One thing that I learned from this experience is that teaching grammar has also become a lot easier, as students write their own journals," the English teacher said. She also stressed however that technology and the Internet have made holistic learning possible.

Maria Cecilia Correa, high school teacher at the Manila Science High School and another winner of the recent Philippine Innovative Teachers Leadership Awards, for her part asked her students to create short films about their thoughts and insights on Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mocking Bird."

Harper Lee's novel is a semi-autobiographical account of her small-town Southern life (Monroeville, Alabama), her widower father/ attorney Amasa Lee in a setting of racial unrest. This Pulitzer winning classic reflected the state of deep racial problems and social injustice in the American south.

"I asked them to create a five-minute movie, and present it in class using different technologies such as Powerpoint. I also asked them to create a digital portfolio, which contained all their photos, movies, and reflections about their experience," she said.

"There is really nothing wrong with the traditional approach of teaching [classic novels]. But with technology, students are challenged and hooked. In fact, they are asking for more of such projects," she said.

Correa admitted that she knew little of information technology prior to winning the award given by Microsoft every year. But this experience has prompted her to take time to learn technology.

"What's good about this is that students were able to internalize the novel's lessons," she said.

The innovations in teaching that the Filipino teachers have implemented using technology have made a difference, said Fr. Jomar Legaspi, Microsoft's Partners in Learning advisory council chair and Learn.ph president.

Legaspi, who is director of the ICT services of the Department of Education, said the Philippine government is pushing teachers to use technology as a relevant tool for teaching, especially for those in far-flung areas.

The Philippine Innovative Teacher Leadership Awards is on its second year. This is part of the Partners in Learning initiative of Microsoft Philippines.

The other winners of this year's awards were Christie Anne Dagamac of the Ipil National High School in Ormoc; Francisco Garcia of Manila Science High School, and Evelyn Manahan of Iligan City East High School. These teachers are scheduled to go to Seoul, South Korea to present their experiences, along with teachers from 16 Asia Pacific countries.

Polyglots find opportunities in contact centers

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IS A REASON for the boom of business process outsourcing (BPO) industry in the Philippines and some Filipinos fluent in foreign languages are taking a chance in becoming part of that boom. Although they constitute a small portion of foreign-speaking BPO professionals, they might well spark a shift toward other markets for the BPO industry.

Philipp Rothmund, Jamila Esmael and Linda Nakamura are among the polyglots working for IBM Philippines' Business Services, which opened a new BPO facility last month. These three young professionals have stories to tell on how they started in a business primarily aimed at English-speaking countries like the US.

Rothmund is a Swiss-Filipino with a fluent handle on German, English and Filipino. He started as an encoder for a bank in Switzerland then moved back to the Philippines and worked for another contact center company until he was hired by IBM to be part of the new team dedicated to providing outsourced accounting and trading services to European countries.

Rothmund said he always thought the outsource industry in the Philippines required ONLY proficiency in the English language, a skill most college graduates already have. "I never knew there could be any opportunities for multi-language speakers other than just becoming translators."

Like Rothmund, Esmael, a European Language graduate of the University of the Philippines Diliman, did not expect to work for the outsource industry. Speaking French and Italian, Esmael knew her working for embassies was the likeliest job for a European language student.

"I worked for Alliance Francaise and the Embassies of Canada and France. I only found out about available work in the BPO industry from another former classmate," Esmael said.

But while Rothmund and Esmael are utilizing their language skills to accommodate European markets, Japanese-Filipina Linda Nakamura is being prepared for IBM's Japanese clients. Her previous jobs have mostly been in Japanese firms, but she later found new opportunities in IBM.

Nakamura is optimistic that Philippine outsource service providers would eventually grow enough to accommodate more Japanese clients, not just because of the presence of many Japanese in the Philippines but because of many Filipinos' obsession with Japanese animé culture.

"It's a fact that many young Filipinos are learning Japanese because they want to understand Japanese animé and read manga (Japanese comic books). These people could start turning their language obsession into something financially productive," Nakamura said.

Rothmund, Esmael and Nakamura are three of the 470 workers in IBM's new BPO office in Libis who speak foreign languages other than English. According to IBM Philippines human resource country manager Anna Maria Roqueza, there's a huge number of resident Filipinos who have additional language skills that can be tapped for the European and Asian markets.

Roqueza said their multi-language platform enables the company to provide outsource services beyond contact centers. Among these are human resource management, payroll, tax information, accounting and legal services. "These couldn't be as large as traditional outsource services, but these give value not just to the clients but to those that provide them. It's not really that hard to find people with multi-lingual skills since there are many language schools."

Roqueza, herself a fluent Spanish speaker, said the company is closely working with several language schools to ensure availability of workforce. Part of the company's activities is a familiarization program where recruits are sent to a country they would be serving to learn various cultural and business nuances.

"It's not as easy as just learning the language; our recruits have to become familiar with the way business is done in a particular European or Asian country. What we want to do is to draw new business in the Philippines other than the traditional contact center services. I believe we're creating new opportunities not just for Filipinos with multilingual skills but also for the whole economy," Roqueza concluded.

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5. The Contractor shall provide the number of fully trained personnel, including supervisory staff, required for photocopy and bindery services. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
6. The Prequalification Documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1630 South, at the above address, from **7 to 11 November 2005** on any working day (**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**) or call 632 4306 or 632 4231; fax numbers 636 2577 or 631 6899, email address: cpsoriano@adb.org.
7. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for pre-qualification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the **Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636S**, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, **not later than 10:00 a.m., 23 November 2005**, and be clearly marked "**Application to Pre-qualify for Photocopy Operation and Bindery Services at ADB Headquarters**".
8. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB.
9. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
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(PDI-November 7 & 8, 2005)

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Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GRAINS TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU, BOHOL, NEGROS ORIENTAL & SIQUIJOR – REGION VII

TRUCKING SERVICES OF 732,000 BAGS GRAINS STOCKS TO NFA WAREHOUSES

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P4,281,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract of Grains Trucking Services for Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor of NFA Region VII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Grains Trucking Services of NFA Region VII. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services for the volume of 732,000 bags, whichever is applicable. The grains trucking services comprise the following:

Province	Source of Stocks	Destination	Minimum # of Trucks	Volume (bags in 50 kgs.)	ABC (P)
Cebu	Cebu	Sta. Fe	6 (10-wheeler)	84,000	294,000.00
	Cebu	Tudela	4 (6-wheeler)	77,000	462,000.00
		TOTAL		*161,000*	*756,000.00*
Bohol	Tagbilaran Port	Tagbilaran	6 (6-wheeler)	250,000	1,500,000.00
	Tagbilaran Port	Ubay	2 (6-wheeler)	20,000	120,000.00
		TOTAL		*270,000*	*1,620,000.00*
Neg. Oriental	Dumaguete Port	Dumaguete	8 (10-wheeler)	190,000	570,000
	Dumaguete	Guihulngan	8 (10-wheeler)	60,000	1,080,000.00
		TOTAL		*250,000*	*1,650,000.00*
Siquijor	Siquijor Port	Larena	2 (6-wheeler)	51,000	255,000.00
TOTAL				*732,000*	*4,281,000.00*

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grand similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents of *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting October 31 to November 9, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).* The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 10, 2005 @ 2:00 PM* at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *November 24, 2005 not later than 10:00 AM.* All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash / Cashier's / Managers Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on *November 24, 2005 @ 10:00 AM* at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Banilad, Cebu City
032-232-1939
email address : nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
032-233-6095
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(PDI – October 31 & November 7, 2005)

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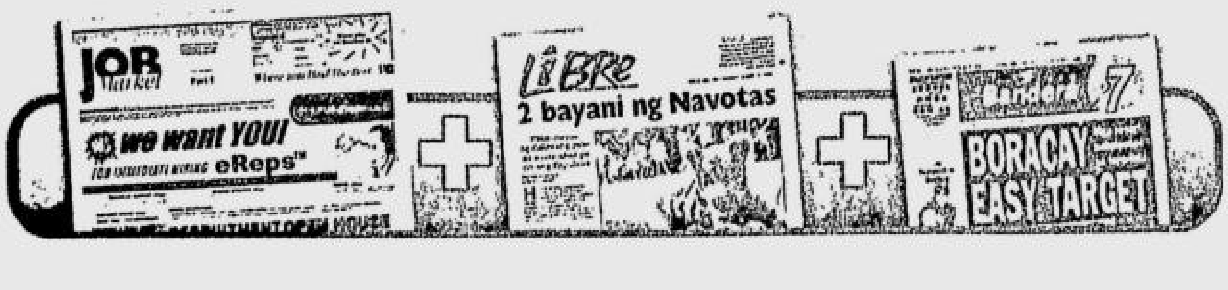

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU, BOHOL, NEGROS ORIENTAL & SIQUIJOR – REGION VII

HANDLING SERVICES OF 1,807,000 BAGS GRAINS STOCKS WITHIN NFA WAREHOUSES

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006* intends to apply the sum of *SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND PESOS (P 6,486,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Grains Handling Services for Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor of NFA Region VII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Grains Handling Services of NFA Region VII. Delivery of GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services for the volume of 1,807,000 bags, whichever is applicable. The grains handling services comprise the following:

PROVINCE	LOT #	LOCATION	VOLUME (Bags of 50 kgs)	ABC (P)
CEBU	1	BOGO	168,000	504,000.00
	2	BADIAN	154,000	462,000.00
	3	STA. FE	168,000	504,000.00
	4	TUDELA	154,000	462,000.00
		TOTAL	*644,000*	*1,932,000.00*
BOHOL	5	TAGBILARAN	500,000	2,000,000.00
		CARMEN	20,000	80,000.00
		UBAY	40,000	160,000.00
		TOTAL	*560,000*	*2,240,000.00*
NEG. ORIENTAL	6	DUMAGUETE	380,000	1,368,000.00
		GUIHULNGAN	120,000	432,000.00
		TOTAL	*500,000*	*1,800,000.00*
SIQUIJOR	7	SIQUIJOR	103,000	514,000.00
TOTAL			*1,807,000*	*6,486,000.00*

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents of *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting October 31 to November 8, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).* The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 9, 2005 @ 2:00 PM* at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *November 22, 2005 not later than 10:00 AM.* All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash / Cashier's / Managers Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on *November 22, 2005 @ 10:00 AM* at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Banilad, Cebu City
032-232-1939
email address : nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
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(PDI – October 31 & November 7, 2005)

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A loyal Friend ...

LAURETO "ETO" D. PASCUAL

has peacefully returned to his Creator, on November 6, 2005, at 12:05 a.m.

His bereaved wife **IRMA "IMAY" LAUREL-PASCUAL**, daughter, **NIKKI**; Mother **NANAY ROSITA**; Siblings, **REMY & ALEX**; **EMILLO & MARICHU**; **MARINA & ALFRED**; **ROSEMARIE & MANUEL**; other Relatives and Friends, request the pious reader to offer prayers for him.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Venice Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Thursday, November 10, 2005, at the Manila Memorial Park, after the 9 a.m. Mass.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

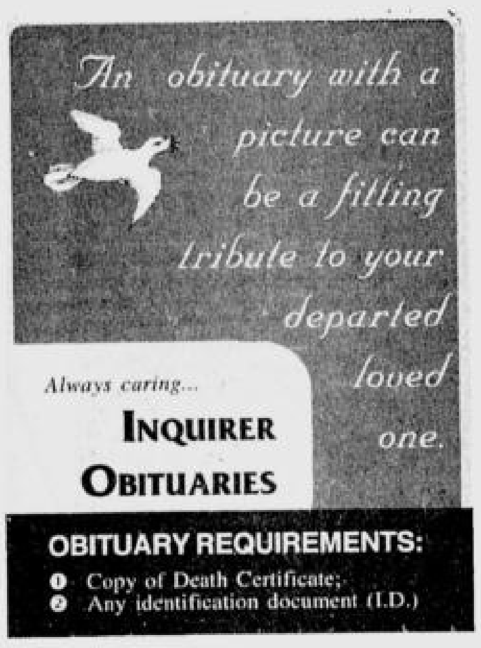
We, the family of the late

JAMES B. LINDENBERG, JR.

who passed away on October 23, 2005
at the age of 57.

wish to thank all those who offered prayers and masses, sent flowers, extended assistance and condoled with us during a most trying moment.

We miss his comforting presence and warm companionship yet find comfort in the thought that he is now united with his mother in the embrace of our Almighty Father.



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Felicidad Bernardino Changco

Born on March 7, 1918 and
died on November 5, 2005 at the age of 87.

Her loving children **CELIA & ARSENITO PURIFICACION; RENATO & CECIL CHANGCO,** brother **ATTY. BENJAMIN B. BERNARDINO &** wife **MA. LETICIA,** brother **FELIX BERNARDINO &** wife **ANGELITA,** nieces, nephews, grandchildren & great grandchildren mourn her passing & wish her Eternal rest.

Her body lies in state
at the Ilagan Chapels, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be tomorrow,
November 8, 2005 after
the 9:00 AM Mass at
Sagrada Familia Memorial Park.

> ***"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."***
>
> **John 14:6**

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National Transmission Corporation

November 3, 2005
BCMD-p05-1047

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2006
The Contract shall be for the Supply and Delivery of 2,800 Steel Poles
composed of various sizes — 50, 55, 60 and 65 ft.:
597 pieces – Type A, Class 2 & 3
1,594 pieces – Type B, Class 1 & 2; and
609 pieces – Type D, Class 1 & 2
Steel Poles in accordance with Transco Specifications and Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents (BCMD.2005-013)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through the **Annual Corporate Budget for the Contract approved by TransCo Board** intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso 170,185,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for Cy 2006 (*BCMD.2005-0013)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles, Direct Burial application in medium corrossive atmospheric condition, galvanized, ASTM A572/A607** as per latest TransCo Approved Specifications. Delivery of the GOODS is **required within 120 calendar days from contract effectivity. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting November 7, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Philippine Peso 15,000.00.* The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Prospective Bidders who have already registered/bought the Bidding Documents are exempted from payment of Php 15,000.00 fee. However, they are advised to secure a copy of the new set of Bidding Documents.
6. TRANSCO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 15, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at Felmon C. Rodriguez Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *December 12, 2005, 10:00 A.M.*, All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *December 12, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at Wenceslao Dela Paz Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The bidding is also open to Foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described above and in the Bidding Documents.
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telephone Nos. 981-4652; 981-2212; 981-2213
TeleFax No.: 921-2308
Email address: jmilagan@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 7, & 14, 2005)

NFA Central Luzon starts buying palay

PALAY FARMERS IN CENTRAL LUZON are assured of better prices for their produce this main cropping season with the National Food Authority's intensified efforts in its palay buying operations. According to NFA Region 3 director Nicolas Crisostomo, the food agency is targeting to procure a total of 335,000 bags of palay for the last quarter of the year. To attain the target, he said a total of 32 buying stations in the region have been put up to accommodate farmers who will sell their palay to the NFA. In addition, the NFA has mobilized 14 mobile procurement teams to serve farmers in far-flung areas in Central Luzon. Crisostomo reported that the agency has a total of P22.8 M in procurement fund allocated in the different provinces of the region. This budget, he said, will be augmented as the need arises to avoid delays in payment. The NFA currently buys palay from farmers at P10/kg with an additional incentive of P0.50 /kg for farmer cooperatives. Palay ex-farm prices are dictated by traders at this time of the harvest season. In order to protect farmers especially the small ones from being lured into selling their produce at lower prices, the NFA aggressively buys palay. This allows the government to influence palay ex-farm prices to rise at levels which are more beneficial for farmers. For more information regarding the agency's procurement operations, the public may text the NFA at 0917-6210927 or call the NFA-Central Luzon Regional Office at (044) 463-1233 for any inquiries, complaints or suggestions.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date: October 27, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction and Installation of 50 MVA Auto-Transformer and Its Associated Equipment for Daraga Substation (Sp05.DGSS.LI-0043)

Installation and/or erecting high voltage equipment such as 50 MVA Power Transformer including accessories; 230 & 69 kV Power Circuit Breakers, its associated Disconnect Switches and Instrument Transformers including metering, control, protection; and construction of warehouse.
The Project is located at Barangay Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay in Bicol Region.

1. The **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)**, through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board, intends to apply the sum of Php 21,328,713.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction and Installation of 50 MVA Auto-Transformer and its Associated Equipment for Daraga Substation (Sp05.DGSS.LI-0043). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TransCo** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials specified to be furnished by TranscCo) supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery and installing of high voltage substation equipment and other works to complete the project. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date and time at the address given below, and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee, also stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a **"pass/fail"** basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

License Particular	**at least Category "B", SP-Electrical Works**
Registration Particular	**at least "Medium A", SP-Electrical Works**

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five pecent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further Information from **TransCo** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
6. **TransCo** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule stated below.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Contract shall complete the works within **One Hundred Fifty (150)** calendar days counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. **TransCo** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

	Activity	Date/Time	Venue
a	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting October 27, 2005, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
b	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	November 14, 2005, 9:00 AM	De La Paz Function Room Training Center Bldg., TransCo, Diliman, Quezon City
c	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting November 28, 2005, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
d	Pre-bid Conference	December 5, 2005, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
e	Bid Submission & Opening	December 16, 2005, 9:00 AM	BCMD office address below
Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy			P 800.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy			P 7,000.00

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
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Telephone Nos.: 981-2212, 981-2213; Facsimile No.: 921-2308
Email Address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 27 & Nov. 7, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

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GENERAL MANAGER

for

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II)
Guagua, Pampanga

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- 30-50 years old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Pampanga

Starting Salary : P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 17 November 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Office of the AVP-Northern Mindanao Cluster
Cagayan de Oro City
SSS Bldg., Carmen, Cag. De Oro City ☎ (088) 8583793; 8583792; Fax (088) 8583790

(THIS IS A REPUBLICATION)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

JANITORIAL SERVICES

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for a two (2) year contract for janitorial services to be rendered at the following branches in the Northern Mindanao Area:

Janitorial Service for: Cagayan de Oro (15), Butuan (2), San Francisco (1), Gingoog (1), Iligan (1), Valencia (1), Oroquieta (1), Ozamis (1), Surigao City (1), Tandag (1), Camiguin (1) Total: 28 Janitors	**Approved Budget for Two-Year Contract:** P 4,857,657.36
Contract Duration :	2-years (April 21, 2006 to April 20, 2008)
Source of Fund :	Maintenance and Repair – Building – Security Service

Application for Eligibility is open to all Janitorial Agencies with at least 5 years experience and with valid license or business permit to undertake the service described herein and must not have been "Blacklisted" by any government agency nor have violated any provisions of the contract with past and existing clients.

Distribution of Eligibility Requirements to interested bidders will be from November 8-15, 2005 by the BAC-Northern Mindanao Cluster-Secretariat, OAVP-Northern Mindanao Cluster, 2nd Floor, SSS Bldg., Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements* will be on November 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (original and photocopies for authentication*) for screening on a pass/fail criteria to the BAC-Northern Cluster Secretariat.

The Terms of Reference, Bid Proposal Form and Draft of the Proposed Contract will be distributed starting November 28 to December 1, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

All eligible bidders issued with bid documents are required to attend the Pre-Bidding Conference on December 7, 2005 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, OAVP-Northern Mindanao Cluster, 2nd Floor, SSS Bldg., Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City.

Submission and Opening of duly accomplished Bid Proposal will be on December 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, OAVP-Northern Mindanao Cluster, 2nd Floor, SSS Bldg., Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City.

For inquiry, please call telephone numbers (088) 858 3793/858 3794 or (08822) 724510/727707.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality, and to, award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSEFINA M. OLAN-FORNILOS
AVP & Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee
Northern Mindanao Cluster

(PDI – November 7, 2005)

BUSINESS

NFA palay procurement falls below target

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY has fallen below its palay procurement target due to weak production in the country's rice fields.

The state-run NFA reported a 30-percent accomplishment rate in October, acquiring a total of 56,336 bags of palay out of the targeted 194,000 bags. The agency placed the blame on the mild El Niño weather disturbance in the first semester, and the delay in planting last quarter.

"The weak harvest and the consequent delay in planting for the main crop resulted in the high palay buying price of private traders," NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan Jr. said in an interview.

He explained that the NFA could not hope to compete with the offer of private traders. But he added that the high price for palay offered by the grain traders would, in the end, benefit the farmers.

He said that in some areas, particularly in Eastern Visayas, the price of palay reached a high of P11.18 per kg.

According to Tan, the NFA has 8.7 million bags of imported rice, which comprise the bulk of its stock. The imported rice is augmented by 755,220 bags of locally procured palay and 61,278 bags of local rice.

Tan said the agency at present has a total of 466,451 metric tons of rice in its warehouses. Based on the average current daily sales of 65,980 bags of rice, the NFA rice stock is expected to last for 141 days or a little more than three months.

Under the food security mandate, the NFA is required to maintain a two-week supply of rice at any one time in its warehouses.

LOWER harvest resulted in better farmgate prices

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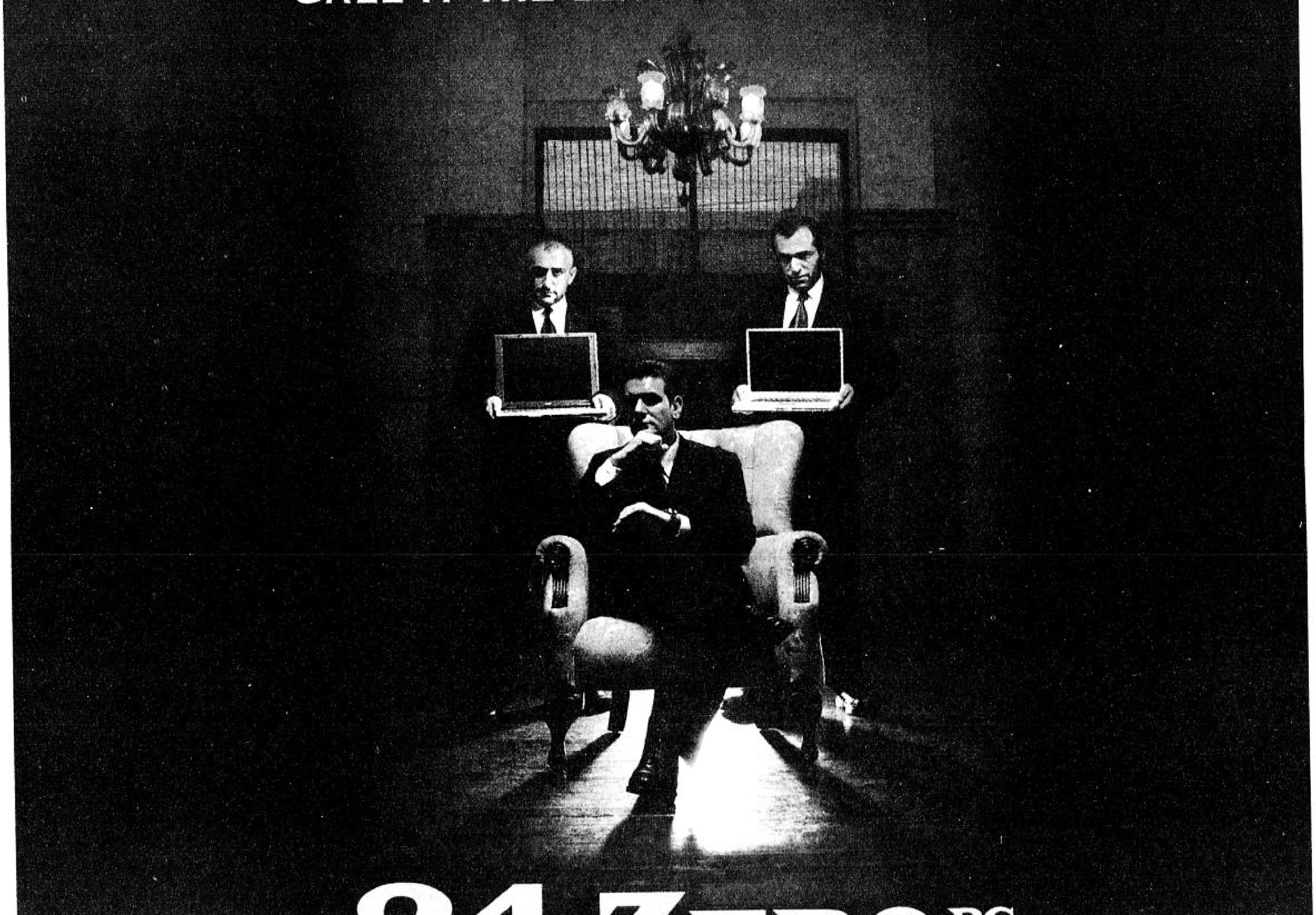

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Acer Pentium 4	Intel Pentium 4 2.93 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	15"	₱ 32,025	₱ 1,334
IBM Pentium 4	Intel Pentium 4 3.06 GHz	80 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	15"	₱ 34,594	₱ 1,441
Laptop							
Acer Celeron Laptop	Intel Celeron 1.5 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD RW / DVD R	15"	₱ 44,725	₱ 1,864
IBM Celeron Laptop	Intel Celeron 1.5 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	14"	₱ 48,060	₱ 2,003
Acer Centrino Laptop	Intel Centrino 1.6 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD RW / DVD R	15"	₱ 53,995	₱ 2,250
IBM Centrino Laptop	Intel Centrino 1.7 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	14"	₱ 57,820	₱ 2,409

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Bank head takes long, hard climb to top

GILDA Elepano-Pico, acting president of the Land Bank of the Philippines

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOYALTY AND INTEGRITY ARE THE VIRTUES that have kept Gilda Elepano-Pico at the forefront of Land Bank of the Philippines in the last 23 years.

Thus, it came as no surprise when she was appointed acting president and CEO of the bank.

Elepano-Pico believes that trust between bosses and subordinates must be established to make sure the job gets done, and done well.

"It is rather unusual to think of respect as being essential to business executives," she says. "However, to bring your subordinates together, draw the very best from them and develop their abilities. You must share a working relationship based on mutual trust," she notes.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

"You gain the trust of your boss if you make sure you do not give them sloppy work. This way, you can convince them that you are effective, efficient and can deliver," adds Pico.

Admitting that she is a strictly hands-on boss, Pico loves to go through even the most minor of details.

"Because I rose from the ranks, I am very particular with details because I know how it is being done," she shares.

It was a slow but steady climb to the top for Pico.

After graduating magna cum laude from the College of the Holy Spirit in 1966 and passing the exams for certified public accountants in 1967, she did not hesitate to work as as a remittance clerk at the then Commercial Bank and Trust Co. (ComTrust).

At ComTrust, she worked her way up from accounts teller to audit clerk programmer, supervisor, division manager and eventually to assistant vice president in 1978. She worked for ComTrust for 14 years.

"It was in the company that I saw how the Philippine banking system slowly went into automation," she narrates. "I have been very meticulous about details because my training has allowed me to be familiar with the nitty-gritty of banking operations."

Before moving to Land Bank, she was appointed assistant vice president in ComTrust.

"I moved to Land Bank when BPI (the Bank of the Philippine Islands) acquired ComTrust. Although I was offered the same position at BPI, I thought it was time to move on and accepted the AVP of the management operations group in Land Bank," she notes.

Since 1981, she has stayed on with the bank, maintaining the diligence and hard work that earned her the trust of her new bosses and colleagues.

"Obviously, respect and trust go hand in hand—but there is a difference. Trust is a basic prerequisite for doing business. Respect, on the other hand, is an elevated status that is much more difficult to earn," Pico shares. "Walk your talk."

She worked as vice president for various divisions of Land Bank, overseeing its day-to-day operations for another eight years. From 1989 until she was designated acting president, she was executive vice president for the agrarian and domestic banking sector.

She worked with former Land Bank presidents Jesli Lapus, Salvador Casuela and with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

"I saw their different management styles and it is really important that you work your best because they have different standards," she notes.

She attests that one's success through years of hard work is determined by the respect, trust, confidence of people you work with.

"Sincerity in your work allows you to earn your superiors' and colleagues' trust. With trust, you earn their respect, and respect enables you to effectively lead your group," she says.

Trust is also essential in maintaining a happy home.

She and her husband Arthur, who is also in finance and a certified public accountant, raised two kids, Archie and Cecile.

Through hard work, they were able to build their dream house in Hillsborough Hills in Alabang.

Now that her kids are busy charting their own careers, all she hopes for now is to have her own grandchildren.

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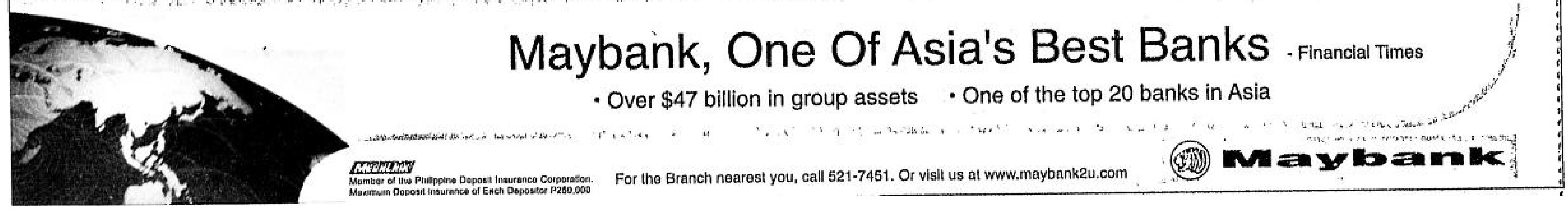
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'Change or Perish' in sports, corporate US and Japan

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Franco G. del Rosario

THE MAP CEO CONFERENCE HELD last Oct. 19 and attended by over 500 executives and managers was a huge success.

This article is based on the opening remarks which set the tone for the conference; providing an overview of how change is applicable in all aspects of life.

Did you know that Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters Tournament at 22? His total earnings for that year was $2 million.

We often hear people say that "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Tiger Woods seems to have ignored that old adage. After he won the Masters that year, what did he do? He changed his swing! Many people were stunned. What was he thinking?

But you see—Tiger had foresight. He probably thought: "Cool, I won the Masters at 22. But what can I do to remain the champion for the long run? I know I can still improve my swing. That will make me champion for the long haul."

Risking for the long-run

The following year, Tiger won another, the PGA Tournament. At 25, he won two more majors, the British and US Opens. Did you know that Tiger is only the fifth golfer to win all four majors?

So that change in his swing has continued to add to Tiger's earnings. This year, at 30, Tiger's total winnings total $8.6 million so far; not counting his endorsements for Nike, Tag Heuer, Buick, among others.

What change should you make to remain an industry leader?

In Jim Collin's book, "Built to Last," he talked about the importance of having a "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" or BHAG for short. How does Collins characterize BHAG? He says that although BHAGS are daunting, they are "do-able" and they stimulate momentum and change.

IBM's 'Big Hairy Audacious Goal'

Let me tell you about the changes made by IBM North America, my employer for the 12 years I lived in the United States. In 1964, before I joined IBM, the visionary IBM leader, TJ Watson Jr., used the System/360 to energize a mechanism to stimulate change. This was actually a bold mission that was way outside IBM's comfort zone.

What made it bold? The S/360 made almost the entire IBM product line obsolete. It was, however, an extremely profitable venture and the product had a life of 13 years. The key question is, "did IBM have an equally powerful BHAG after the System/360? IBM was making billions of dollars up to 1990. But in 1991, it lost $3 billion, and in 1992, another $5 billion.

Is this a case of the inability to change? Several years prior to its first loss in 1991, IBM was working with Microsoft, developing PC-DOS, MS-DOS. Microsoft supposedly offered the Windows product to IBM. But IBM stuck with PC-DOS.

Consistent with its strategy to go with IBM-developed software, it went on its own and developed its own operating system, the OS/2. But guess what? In December last year, IBM threw in the towel and withdrew OS/2 from the market.

IBM breaks tradition

To arrest the negative trend, what did IBM do? In April 1993, after 82 years, seven inside CEOs and more than $8 billion in losses, IBM brought in Lou Gerstner, a non-technical cookie maker from RJR Nabisco.

Just before naming Gerstner as the new CEO, IBM was on the verge of dissolving into several smaller independent firms. This major change of bringing in an outsider saved IBM from a costly mistake.

Gerstner saw that by cutting the company up into smaller units, IBM would lose its unique advantage of providing integrated solutions for customers.

This master change-agent turned IBM around from an $8.1-billion loss in 1993 to an $8.1-billion profit eight years later. That, ladies and gentlemen, translates into a swing of $16.2 billion! So the huge CEO change paid off for IBM.

Obviously, in that rapidly changing business environment, IBM had no choice but to re-invent itself. It changed its focus from product-driven to solutions-driven. It shifted its concentration from development, manufacturing, delivery and maintenance of technology to integrator of technology.

While in 1991, IBM's service revenue was merely an after-sales activity, it built up its services business in 1995 to become the world's largest IT services provider, accounting for 47 percent of IBM's total revenue. Eight times it improved the annual services revenue by $3 billion! Such astounding figures, and all made possible by change.

Commit to change

Are there any significant change-related lessons to be learned from the success story of IBM Global Services? There are two. One is to commit to business and cultural change for the long run.

It would have been easy to abort the change and make the company survive as a services business during the initial unprofitable years.

The other lesson IBM learned was that it had to be ready to adapt, to anticipate and be quick to innovate. IBM now regenerates its services portfolio on a rigorous basis.

"Quick to innovate" means not being limited to doing strategic planning annually but on an "as-need" basis.

Many changes occurred at IBM after that. Even the old uniform of pinstriped suits, button down shirts, and wing-tipped shoes was not spared and made way for casual attire. But now I understand it's making a comeback.

A foreign CEO in Japan

In corporate Japan, some CEOs are dying. Large Japanese companies have finally realized that Japanese executives are career men, more interested in keeping the "status quo" than in change.

Is there a change in conventional wisdom in an extremely nationalistic country like Japan? Perhaps. But it appears that the battle cry these days when a company needs a CEO is not "Banzai!" It is "Gaijin!" meaning foreigner or outsider.

Japan is actually reaching outside its shores for the top level positions? Yes it is! Who did Nissan tap to become its CEO to turn the company around? It was not a Japanese national. It was Carlos Chosn, a Brazilian-born man who, in less than five years, became a sort of national hero in Japan.

His exploits were lionized in a comic book series. Books were written about his management style and his philosophy, which was considered a no-nonsense formula for success; including one he wrote entitled, "Inside Nissan's Historic Revival."

Let us turn now to another Japanese giant car manufacturer, Mitsubishi Motors. It has joined the bandwagon. After being hit with a major recall and a cover-up scandal, it too turned to a "gaijin."

It brought in Rolf Ekkrodt, a German, to become COO, and later CEO for three and a half years. Mitsubishi learned, however, that enlisting a "gaijin" as CEO was not a "cure-all."

Should one turn to a "gaijin" when plagued by troubles? It would appear from another Japanese giant's model that one should bring the gaijin in, to keep it out of trouble.

Sony is profitable and has an "A" debt rating, and is considered one of the world's best known brands. Sony still rates on top of many markets.

Is change easier when we initiate it? Normally, this means that we have time to plan for that change. On the other hand, changing when we have to, is often unpleasant. For some, it is a humbling admission of defeat or failure.

Driving change

So how do we drive change? I have two suggestions.

One is to stimulate change by developing a "Big Hairy Audacious Goal," BHAG for short, as in the System/360 of Tom Watson. The other suggestion is to diligently take small steps in improving all aspects of the business; looking for things that would give us an edge over our competitors.

This is how the 11 Good to Great companies of Jim Collins made that leap from good to great. They consistently worked to do all the small things better. Jim Collins looked for the one big change that the 11 companies did. He found none.

Jim Collins found that relentlessly improving the small things in their business consistently provided that build-up daily, weekly and monthly. They built on success after success; giving them the momentum that one day brought them the breakthrough that propelled them from good to great.

Rinsing your cottage cheese

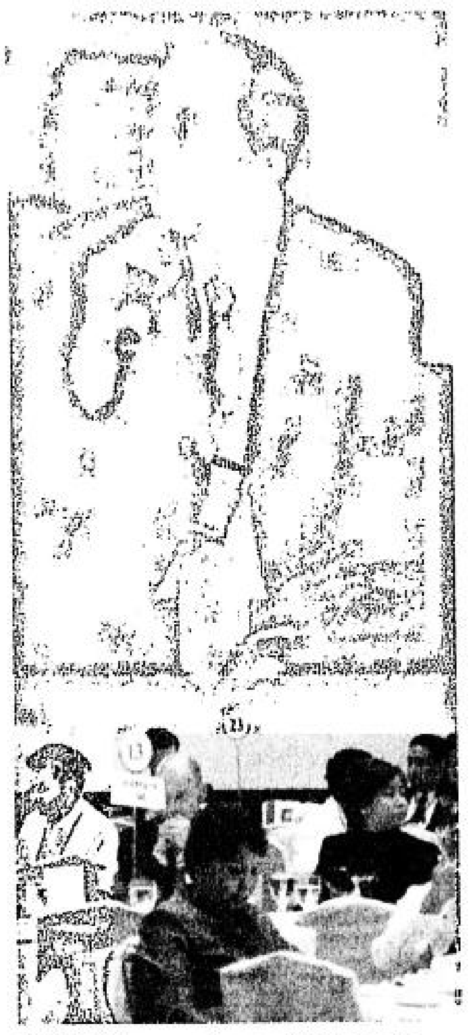
Dave Scott was a six-time Hawaii Ironman Triathlon champion. He would bike 75 miles, swim 20,000 meters, run 17 miles, burning 5000 calories a day. Still he was constantly looking for one more thing that he could do to be great. He overlooked his passion for cottage cheese.

I ask you. Do you have "cottage cheese" in your businesses? Remember the Challenger accident? What caused it? A very small thing. An O-ring. A rubber washer. Are your people committed to invest every day in small improvements in every part of your business?

And finally, what kind of people do you want your people to be—people who make change happen? Or people who let change happen? Or people who sit there and wonder—what happened?

Change or Perish: The choice is yours!

(The author is co-chair of the MAP CEO Conference Committee and managing consultant and CEO of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



OVER 500 executives and managers attended the MAP CEO Conference last October.

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Smart introduces BlackBerry connect

MORE SMART POSTPAID SUBscribers can now enjoy BlackBerry technology using Nokia and Sony Ericsson handsets.

Smart Communications Inc. (SMART), with Research In Motion, recently announced the availability of BlackBerry Connect for new and existing users of the Nokia 9500 Communicator, Nokia 9300 smartphone and Sony Ericsson P910i in the Philippines.

BlackBerry Connect is available to Smart Gold, Infinity and Addict Mobile subscribers and supports both BlackBerry Internet Service and BlackBerry Enterprise Server.

With BlackBerry Connect, customers can enjoy the advantages of BlackBerry services with support for features such as push-based wireless e-mail, wireless e-mail synchronization and attachment viewing on the Nokia and Sony Ericsson devices. Wireless calendar synchronization, remote address lookup, Triple DES encryption, IT commands and policy enforcement are additional features supported with BlackBerry Enterprise Server.

"We are very pleased to be working with Smart to offer BlackBerry Connect in the Philippines," said Norm Lo, vice president, Asia Pacific at Research In Motion. "BlackBerry Connect enables power wireless e-mail features for mobile users while also allowing IT departments to maintain the security, manageability and reliability of the BlackBerry architecture."

Smart president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said that the extension of the BlackBerry service to a wider range of handsets gives mobile phone users more choice.

"We are proud to be RIM's partner in making BlackBerry services available to more of our businessmen and professionals who need a wireless extension of their existing work and personal e-mail accounts. Smart's goal is to make wireless connectivity work for more people," he said.

BlackBerry has become the most widely accepted wireless e-mail solution on the go because of its proven reliability and convenience. Users do not have to retrieve or "pull" e-mail from an account since BlackBerry automatically "pushes" e-mail messages to handsets.

MOVEMENTS

PETPlans appoints Lorenzo T. Ocampo as chief executive officer

PETPLANS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THE APPOINTMENT OF LORENZO T. Ocampo as chief executive officer. Ocampo is currently the president of PETPlans where he has been chief operating officer since 1992. As CEO, Ocampo will be responsible for setting the overall strategic direction of PETPlans. As chief executive, he takes over the post of his late father, Adrian V. Ocampo, who was also chairman from 2003 until his death in August of this year.

As president of PETPlans, Ocampo continues to serve PETPlans in various capacities. He is also the president of PETNET, a money transfer agent of Western Union with the largest network in the Philippines of over 3,000 outlets.

Prior to PETPlans, Ocampo was a product manager of Unilever Philippines, where he stayed for close to five years.

Ocampo obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration major in Finance from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He also attended the Strategic Business Education Program of the University of Asia and Pacific in 1995. He is a registered internal quality auditor.

Ace Saatchi & Saatchi names new ECDs

ACE SAATCHI & Saatchi president and chief executive officer Reynaldo G. Icasas recently announced the appointment and promotion of Cirlo J. Cinco and Robert Raoul A. Floresca to the positions of executive creative directors effective this month. The new appointments are in line with the agency's move to further strengthen its creative prowess by having two high-caliber ECDs on top of its operations.

Cinco is an 18-year veteran of advertising, having spent 10 years as creative director. Throughout his career, he has always been associated with large, successful clients, namely Smart, San Miguel Foods Corp. and Mead Johnson. In the past, he was part of the team behind successful creative campaigns for Colgate Palmolive, Warner Lambert, General Milling Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ajinomoto and Eight O-Clock. Currently, he has also done outstanding work for Star Margarine, and the record-setting Xenical campaign for Roche.

Floresca, who began his career in advertising with the media and account management group, is considered to be a well-rounded creative. His experience in these two disciplines, followed by his eventual shift to creative, gave him a deeper understanding of brands. His impressive rise from copywriter to creative director within a short period proves his creative ability. He is on top of major brands like Petron, PLDT and Boehringer.

PSBank adds new director to board

PSBANK HAS announced the appointment of David Ong Chua to its board of directors. Chua, who has a strong background in financial management, brings in 17 years of experience and expertise gained from some of the biggest corporations in the country:

A BS Financial Services Management graduate of St. Mary's College in California, USA, Chua also earned his MBA from Kellogg School of Management, North Western University of Science and Technology.

Before joining PSBank, Chua served as director of First Metro Investment Corp. He was also with Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. and Asia Pacific Steel Capital Investment Corp., Heavenly Garden Development Corp., and the Philippine Banking Corp..

New Nickelodeon Asia Pacific VP

NICKELODEON Asia Pacific is proud to welcome the addition of Elaine Tan as vice president of marketing and communications. Tan has been charged to raise and reinforce Nickelodeon's brand and leadership among the target audience aged two to 14 years old and will also be taking the lead on planning for the strategic growth and development of the department. Based in Honk Kong, she reports directly to Catherine Nebauer, senior vice president/general manager, Nickelodeon Asia Pacific.

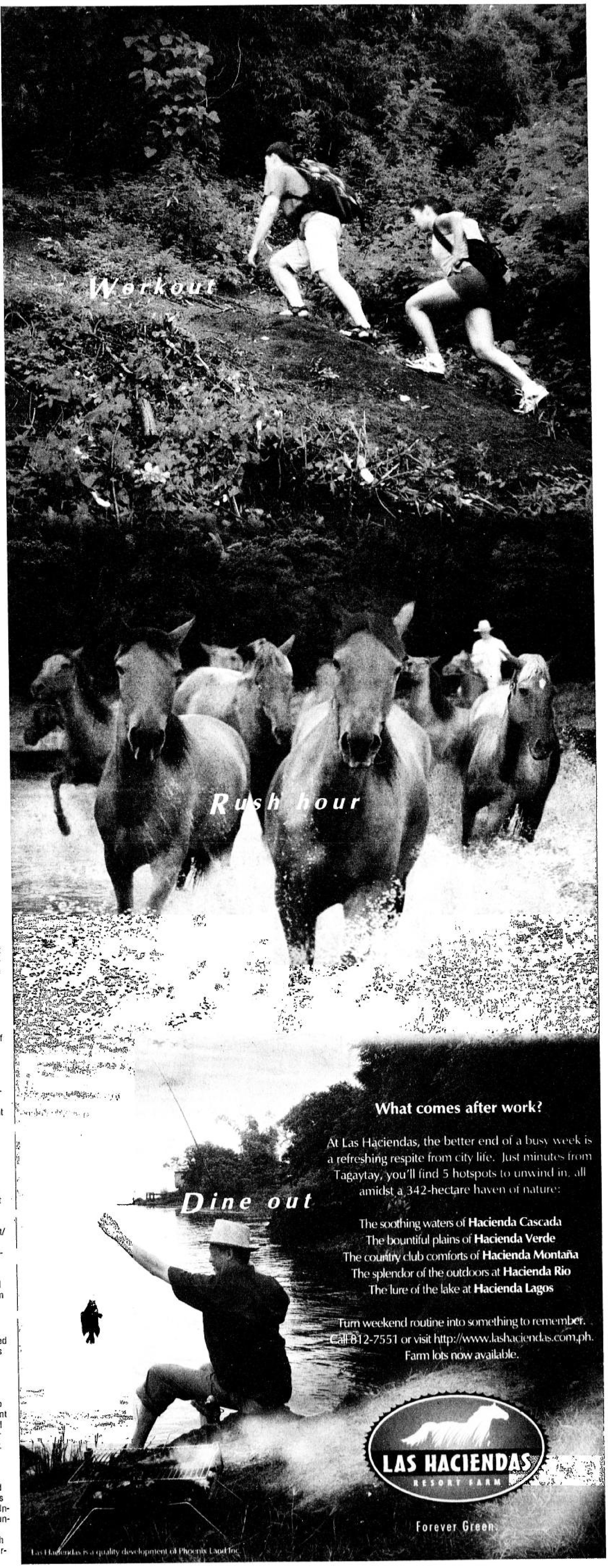
As vice president, marketing and communications, Nickelodeon Asia Pacific, Tan will be responsible for the marketing and communications function across the Asia-Pacific region for the Nickelodeon channels. Working with Chan Wai Leng, director, marketing and communications, her role will focus on managing, developing and implementing Nickelodeon's long-term corporate communications and marketing strategy.

Insular Life welcomes new trustee

INSULAR LIFE chair and chief executive officer Vicente R. Aylion announced the appointment of the company's new trustee, Ricardo G. Librea. Librea is a consultant on financial, tax and general management. He is presently an independent director of Insular Life's subsidiary, Insular Investment and Trust Corp.

Librea brings with him extensive experience on finance management, having worked for both multinational and local companies such as Metro Pacific Corp. There he handled the financial control and fund management of Metro Pacific's Pacific Plaza Condominium Project, and group internal audit of the company and its four affiliate companies. He also worked for First Pacific Bancshares Phils., as its chief financial officer and treasurer. Much earlier, he worked for audit firm SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.

Librea obtained his BS in Business Administration degree major in Accounting with minor concentration in finance, economics and management from the University of the East. He placed 13th in the Certified Public Accountant Licensure Examinations. He is affiliated with various professional and civic organizations, such as the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), Finex Research and Development Foundation, Rotary Club of Makati, and Makati Rotary Club Foundation,Inc. He is a special lay minister of the Eucharist at the Christ the King Parish in Green Meadows, Quezon City, and an adorer of the Adoracion Nocturna Filipina.



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A dream is not enough

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

LAST TIME, I TALKED ABOUT THE THREE types of jobholders. This issue and the next are devoted to those who know what they'd like to do, but don't do it.

Every once in a while, I run into people who say, "Well, I just have a dream." Having a dream and fulfilling a dream are two different things.

Let me tell you something else—if your dream does not match your abilities, it'll be a nightmare. I see people all the time who have unrealistic dreams.

Please understand that I'm not trying to dash your hopes or suggest that you listen to naysayers who try to dissuade you from doing what seems impossible when you know deep down in your heart that you can do it. I'm merely giving you a reality check because if you don't have the aptitude or the skill level to do it, you're going to have some real frustrations and you're going to have to change your mindset.

For example, I love music and I'd like to be a great singer; but there's a problem—some would say that it's minor, but I think it's major—I can't sing. Isn't it awful when you can hear music one way in your head, but when you open your mouth it doesn't come out right?

Fortunately for other people, I know I can't sing, so I don't torture them with my caterwauling. I've been to places where there was a person singing who didn't know they couldn't sing.

I don't know about you, but I wanted to look at the people around me and say, "You know, somebody ought to go up there and tell them."

Here's the problem: if I can't sing, but my dream is to be a great opera singer, I will either be very frustrated or I will torture audiences everywhere who don't have the heart to tell me to give it up.

Can I tell you something? It isn't going to happen. Not because I lack desire or lack the dream. It isn't going to happen because I'm not any good in that area—I simply lack the ability.

Too many times, people work on their weaknesses. Don't work on your weaknesses. On a scale from one to a ten, if you're a two at something, don't spend a lot of time trying to improve in that area.

If you work on it hard, you'll probably only become about a four. In other words, if I take music lessons, voice lessons, and bring all kinds of people around me to help me sing, after two or three years, I will have spent a lot of money and worked very hard, but I'm still not going to be able to sing.

If you're a two and you go up to a four, you're a little bit below average. I know many people trying to do average things wanting people to stand in line and buy it. Average will never get you anywhere.

So quit working on your weaknesses because if you work on your weaknesses, at best you're going to be average.

You have to find your strengths; you have to find out what you're good at. If you're a six at something, you can get up to a seven or an eight. People pay for eights. So when you ask yourself whether you can do what you'd like to do, you need to be honest with yourself before you invest a lot of time and energy into it.

By the way, when I say don't work on your weaknesses, I'm talking about your skills and abilities. The personal illustration I gave was my singing.

There are three weaknesses you need to work on at all times, but they have nothing to do with your skills.

The three weaknesses you have to work on are:

1. Attitude issues.

If you have a bad attitude, fix it because your attitude will disqualify you. I know several people who have great potential, but their attitude is the disqualifier of their life.

2. Discipline issues.

Work on your discipline issues if you're weak. If you can't get somewhere on time, if you lack initiative, if you're lazy, you won't make it.

3. Relationship issues.

You'd better work on your relationship issues because if people don't like you, you're not going to be successful with them. Remember, people won't go along with you if they can't get along with you.

Let me give you five quick questions to ask for yourself to determine your abilities:

1) Do I have experience in my desired area?

2) Do I have any success in my desired area?

3) Do I have any training in my desired area?

4) Do I know what is essential in my desired area?

5) Do I know someone who's successful in my desired area?

I love this quote: "Find something you like to do so much that you'd gladly do it for nothing. Then learn to do it so well the people are happy to pay you for it." That's the way to live.

Don't worry about what you're going to get paid and what kind of benefits there are; do something you love to do and do it so well that after a while you'll be paid to do it. If it's something you are capable of doing, and if you seek answers to the five questions I have given, you'll be on your way to doing just that.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!)

Meat and fish processing seminar on

IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S efforts to give jobs and business to those who would like to venture into the meat and fish processing business, the Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program (GTSDP) will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing at UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Avenue, cor. Ylanan Street, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, on Nov. 12, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Among the topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing and how to start and maintain a business.

Participants will get to experience making tocino, skinless longganisa, embutido, siomai, chicken ham, bangus deboning, fishball, fish kikiam, fish fillet and fish burger. Bonus lecture: corned beef and squid ball processing.

Participants will receive a certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and all the materials will be provided. Those interested may call 952-29-34/ 952-40-28/ 421-85-93/ 951-29-66 and 436-78-26. for reservations.

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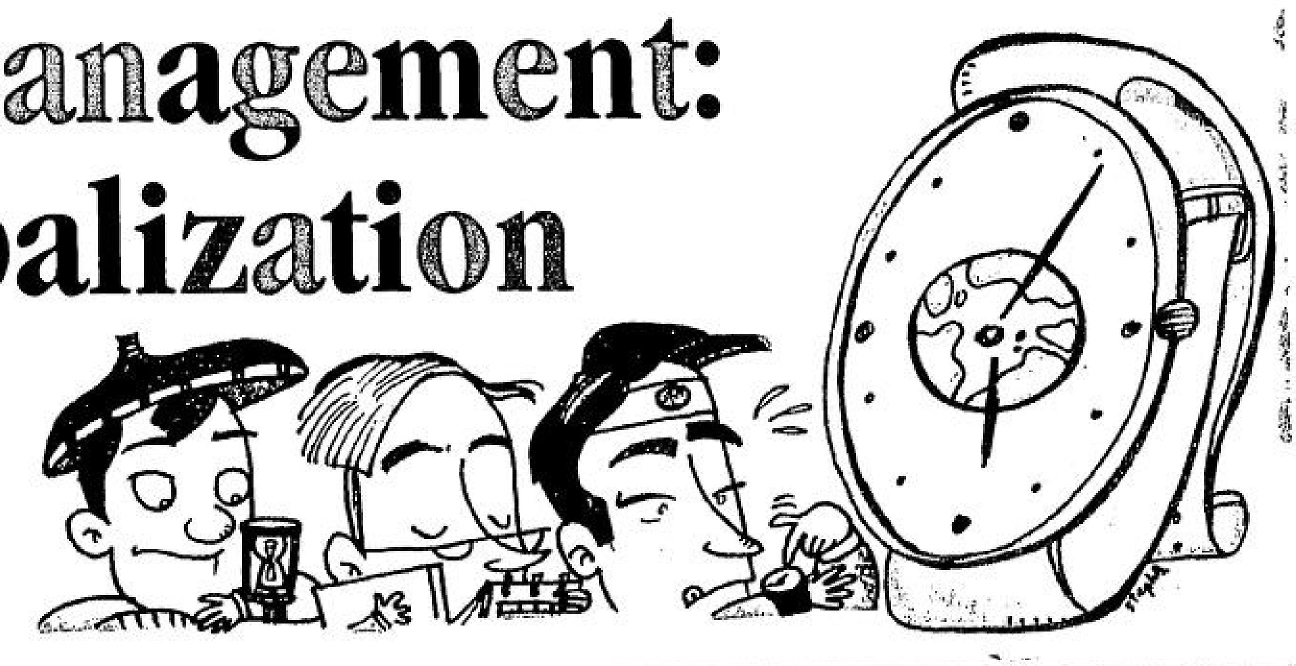
Cross-cultural management: must tool in globalization



THE INFAMOUS FILIPINO TIME. GERMANS setting up meeting at exactly 6:02 pm. The American way of working smart versus the Japanese philosophy of working hard. These are just some of the perfectly illustrated diversities in cultural behavior in the workplace.

If you are in the global business involving people of different cultures and races, a lot of deeply ingrained cultural behavior has to be valued and chances are that clashes occur anytime a difference in a learned business practice surfaces in a foreign business organization.

With the rise of BPOs and the impact of globalization, De La Salle University Professional Schools, Inc.-Graduate School of Business (DLS PSI-GSB) recently mounted a significant lecture series citing the importance of understanding cultural backgrounds in doing business with the rest of the world.

Dr. Glenn Miyataki, Ph.D., president of the Japan-America Institute of Management Science (JAIMS) in Honolulu, Hawaii, in his lecture series entitled "Cross-Cultural Management: Trends and Issues in Business Practices" believed that to be more competitive on a global scale, organizations should pay attention to cultural attitudes and behavior and be more entrepreneurial in this nature.

"Business persons need to develop and understand cultural sensitivity in doing business within their companies and in other countries. For instance, in Japan and in India, relationships come first and then the deal but in Germany and US, the deal comes first before any relationships are built," Dr. Miyataki said on what companies must consider in doing business overseas and in dealing with multi-cultural business partners.

Non-verbal communication

Dr. Miyataki, who is primarily responsible for policy development and implementation of academic programs and activities in inter-cultural management education at JAIMS, says managers need to learn how to communicate with different cultures and to understand behavior in a multi-cultural workplace. It is not enough to hear what is said or to use an interpreter for translation in business dealings. It is also equally important to understand non-verbal communication.

Managers who are working overseas to supervise foreign personnel must also understand how behavior varies in the workplace. In the US for example, American workers focus on individualism and self-identity. Americans seem to be more committed to oneself while in India and the Philippines, there is a focus on collectivism wherein employees gain identity through group membership.

"Workplace behavior, relationships between the manager and employees, the need for structure and security, career life goals for different cultures and even philosophies for ethical-decision making must be taken into full consideration in multi-cultural business practices," Dr. Miyataki stressed.

Without following these simple guidelines, the perils of cross-cultural communications will contribute greatly in stampeding a global company's objectives for business growth. Parochialism, ethnocentrism and stereotyping are the most common mishaps in cross-cultural management.

"Parochialism is when you only see things through your eyes without regard to the opinions of foreign co-workers. Ethnocentrism is when you believe that your culture is superior to others and stereotyping is when you treat an employee as a stereotype even if he is not," Dr. Miyataki explained.

To prevent these perils, Dr. Miyataki recommends that companies should conduct cultural diversity training, including how to read cultures, communications, work behavior, and ethics. Companies must define clearly their global domain and the kind of business professionals they wish to develop. Professionals must also have the prototype or model for change in a culturally diverse workplace and the will to implement these changes.

Looking at behavior

"Cross-cultural management boils down to looking at behavior and the basis of our behavior is the culture where you were raised. To get across to others' beliefs in culture, religion, ethnicity, value systems, believe that each school of thought is just a different way of looking at things," Dr. Miyataki concludes.

Dr. Miyataki believes that a businessperson will excel in a global company once he applies the right business language and learns various business functions, develops cross-cultural sensitivity, keeps abreast of computer applications and global issues.

Aside from Dr. Miyataki's lecture series, examples of cultural diversity programs were also presented by Joel Esguerra, Shell Philippines' General Manager for Human Resources; Ruchira Mehrotra, Sykes Asia's HR Director for Asia Pacific; and Ernesto Espinosa, Fujitsu Computer Products' Vice President for HR and General Affairs.

The two-day Cross-cultural Management lecture series spearheaded by DLS PSI-GSB were conducted at the RCBC Plaza and Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

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Portrait of the Filipino as giver

NON-GOVERNMENT AND NON-profit organizations largely dependent on volatile grants and gifts from foundations, corporations and international donors and funding agencies need to start exploring other funding sources for greater financial security.

How about starting with the most obvious, but largely untapped source? Like the individual Filipino giver?

In fact, that giver would most likely be a married man or woman, between 22 and 40 years old.

This is one of the key conclusions of the Venture for Fund Raising survey on giving, published as the Survey on Giving 2003: A closer look at giving in Metro Manila.

Conducted among 400 respondents in Metro Manila, aged 17-65 from the ABC+ class, the survey is the first ever of its kind done in the Philippines.

The study affirmed the essential generosity of the Filipino: that despite an economic downturn, fiscal crises, and shaky confidence in the current government, nine of ten still have a soft heart for various causes and continue to make donations.

Right donor

The survey, done in partnership with research group TNS Trends, provides insights on the Filipinos' attitude and behavior on giving: how much and who they give to, and the attributes they look for before giving.

"The survey results will surely help NGOs and non-profits that regularly conduct fund raising activities to assess whether their current strategies are geared toward the right donor base or not," said Mayan Quebral, Venture for Fund Raising executive director. On average, single professionals and the mature group are assumed to be in a better position to give more.

But the survey revealed young married couples to be more generous: the average amount they give to non-profits is P707, followed by the mature group (P567), then the single professionals (P325). Students gave the least or an average of P316.

Church clicks

It seems no surprise that the church is the most favored beneficiary by over three-fourths of the respondents.

Though non-profit organizations receive monies less often, the average amount received is three times the amount that churches get.

And how do Filipinos give? Tried and tested fund raising methods with a relatively high success rate include the use of coin cans and collection boxes, direct mail, house-to-house solicitations, fund raising events, and church collection.

Among the less used but more effective activities are payroll deductions, personal requests by relatives and friends, purchase of products for a cause, walk-in donations, public donations, and the use of ads or media appeals.

Telephone and text pledges, and donations through the Internet have low success rates, implying that personal interaction is probably still more effective.

In terms of what causes Filipinos give to, top of the list were programs that benefit or address children's welfare, basic education, the needs of the elderly and the disabled, and youth concerns.

(For more information, call Venture for Fund Raising at (02) 634-8889 to 90 or email venture@venture-asia.org.

Self-funded high-rise is techno-connected

AT THE HEELS OF THEIR SHANG Grand Tower project in Makati City, the Kuok Group, world-renowned property development masters and multi-awarded for hotel and resort management of the Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts, is the same force behind the multi-billion The St. Francis Towers, the Group's second self-funded high-rise residential condominium in the country.

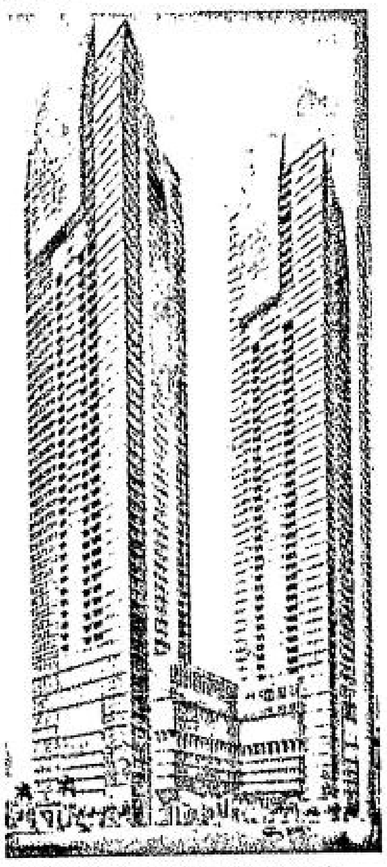
A symbol of the Kuok Group's continued faith in the Philippine economy, The St. Francis Towers is located right next to their high-end Shangri-La Plaza Mall. It is within stone's throw from business establishments like San Miguel Corporation and near the Asian Development Bank, the Philippine Stock Exchange and prestigious schools like Poveda, the University of Asia and the Pacific, and La Salle Greenhills, Lourdes School, the new Medical City and Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

It will have direct links to the EDSA Shangri-La, Manila through an elevated, air-conditioned walkway and direct access to the MRT Shaw Station via Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

The 1,200 unit The St. Francis Towers is composed of two towers, each rising to 60 floors (upon its completion, it will be the tallest high rise condominium in Metro Manila). Each tower provides six high-speed passenger lifts and service elevators for residents of any of their studios, one and two-bedroom units (most with balcony), garden duplexes and penthouses. All units enjoy a light and airy atmosphere due to the high 2.9 m clear ceiling heights.

The St. Francis Towers is also a techno connected residence, employing wireless fidelity facilities or WIFI. Residents also have leisure and recreation choices like a clubhouse with gym and aerobics room, games room with sports lounge, spa, sauna and steam rooms, adult and kiddie swimming pools, jacuzzi, children's play areas, a multi-purpose hall with videoke facilities, and an Internet center. A laundromat and 24-hour convenience store are at hand, as well as concierge service. Residents can also enjoy hotel-linked services from EDSA Shangri-La, Manila.

For inquiries, call 634-8080, 634-8111 or e-mail sales@thestfrancistowers.com


THE 1,200 unit The St. Francis Towers is composed of two towers, each rising to 60 floors

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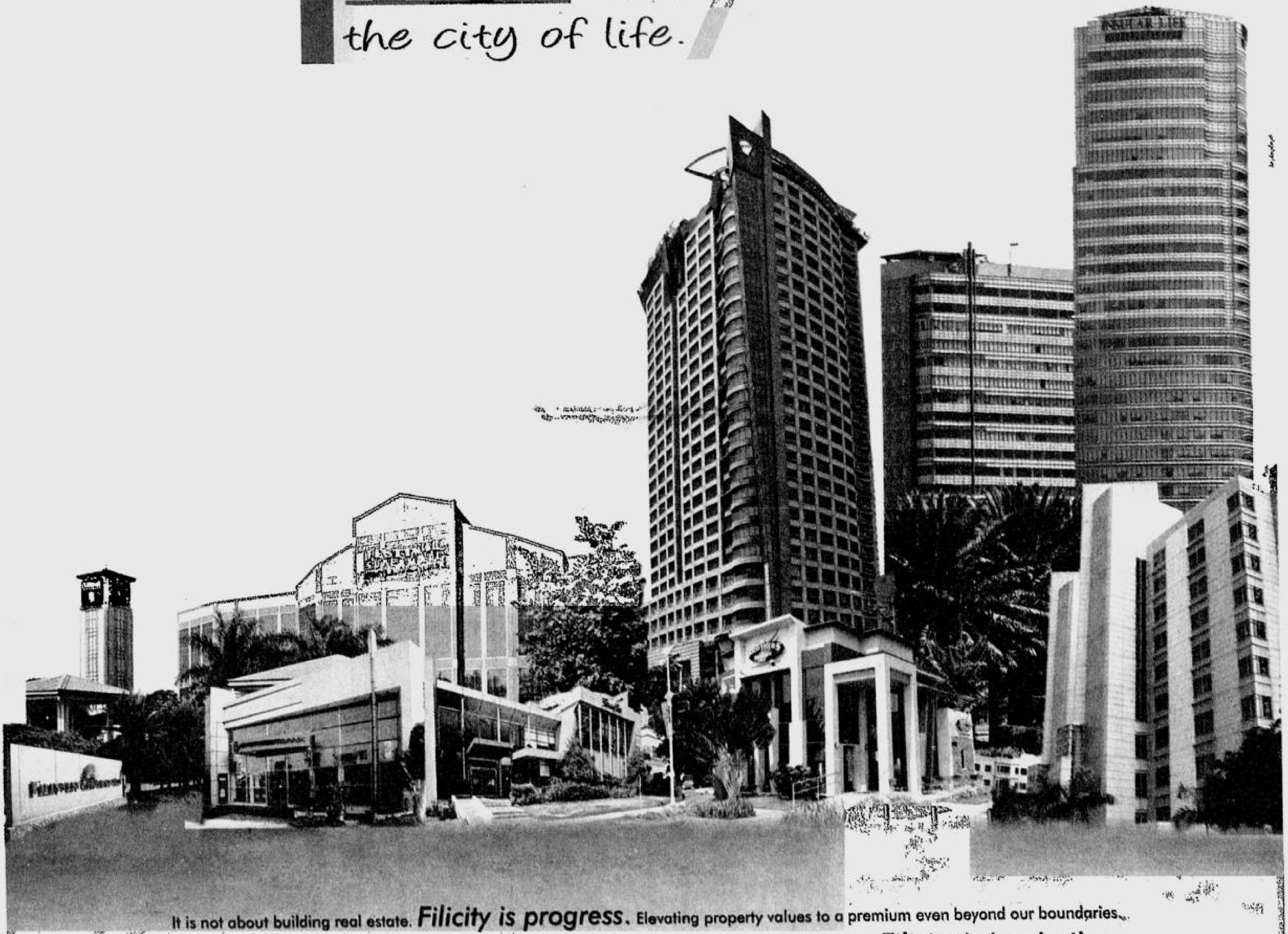

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Securitization Act: Part 2

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

TO MAKE ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES attractive, and increase the probability of their holders enjoying the fruits of their investment, the Securitization Act (or Republic Act No. 9267) allows sweeteners to be placed on them.

The credit enhancements may be in the form of a standby letter of credit, surety bond, guarantee, over-collateralization, subordinated securities or other forms of credit add-ons that the Securities and Exchange Commission may authorize.

There is a caveat, however, on the source of these icings: they cannot come from parties that are related, directly or indirectly, to the seller of the assets.

The prohibition is aimed at avoiding "sweetheart" contracts between parent companies and their subsidiaries or affiliates with their all-too-common adverse effects to the unwary contracting public.

On top of the sweeteners, the law also grants tax breaks to the securitization scheme.

The sale of the assets and their security interests to a special purpose entity, if done in accordance with an SEC-approved action plan, is exempt from value-added tax and documentary stamp tax (DST) or any other taxes that may be imposed in lieu of those taxes.

Lower fees

Except for the fees to register the ABS with the SEC, all other registration and annotation fees payable in relation or incidental to the transfer of the assets or their security interests (e.g., change of land ownership) shall be 50 percent less the applicable fees.

If the assets are transferred by way of *dacion en pago* (or property is delivered in payment of a money debt) to the SPE, the transfer is not subject to capital gains tax.

With regard to the ABS, its original issuance and those of other securities that are related solely to securitization, e.g., seller's equity, subordinated debt instruments purchased by the asset's owner and other forms of credit enhancements, are not to subject to VAT, but covered by DST.

All secondary trades and subsequent transfers of the ABS, including all forms of credit enhancement on those instruments, are exempt from VAT and DST, or any other taxes that may replace them in the future.

In addition, the ABS shall not be considered a deposit substitute for purposes of the Tax Code. Its yield, however, shall be subject to 20 percent final withholding tax unless they are held by tax-exempt investors.

Servicer

The SPE is entitled to two tax perks. First, it shall not be treated as a bank, quasi-bank or financial intermediary that, considering the nature of its business, would make it liable for certain taxes under the Tax Code.

Second, its transactions are exempt from the gross receipts tax.

And in case the assets sold to the SPE have to be returned to their original owner as part of the securitization plan, or is allowed under any of the circumstances provided for in the law, the re-conveyance shall enjoy the same tax privileges that the original transfer is entitled to.

For the additional protection of the investors, the law requires that the SPE engage the services of an entity called "servicer" to collect and record payments received on the assets, remit collections to the SPE and perform other acts of administration.

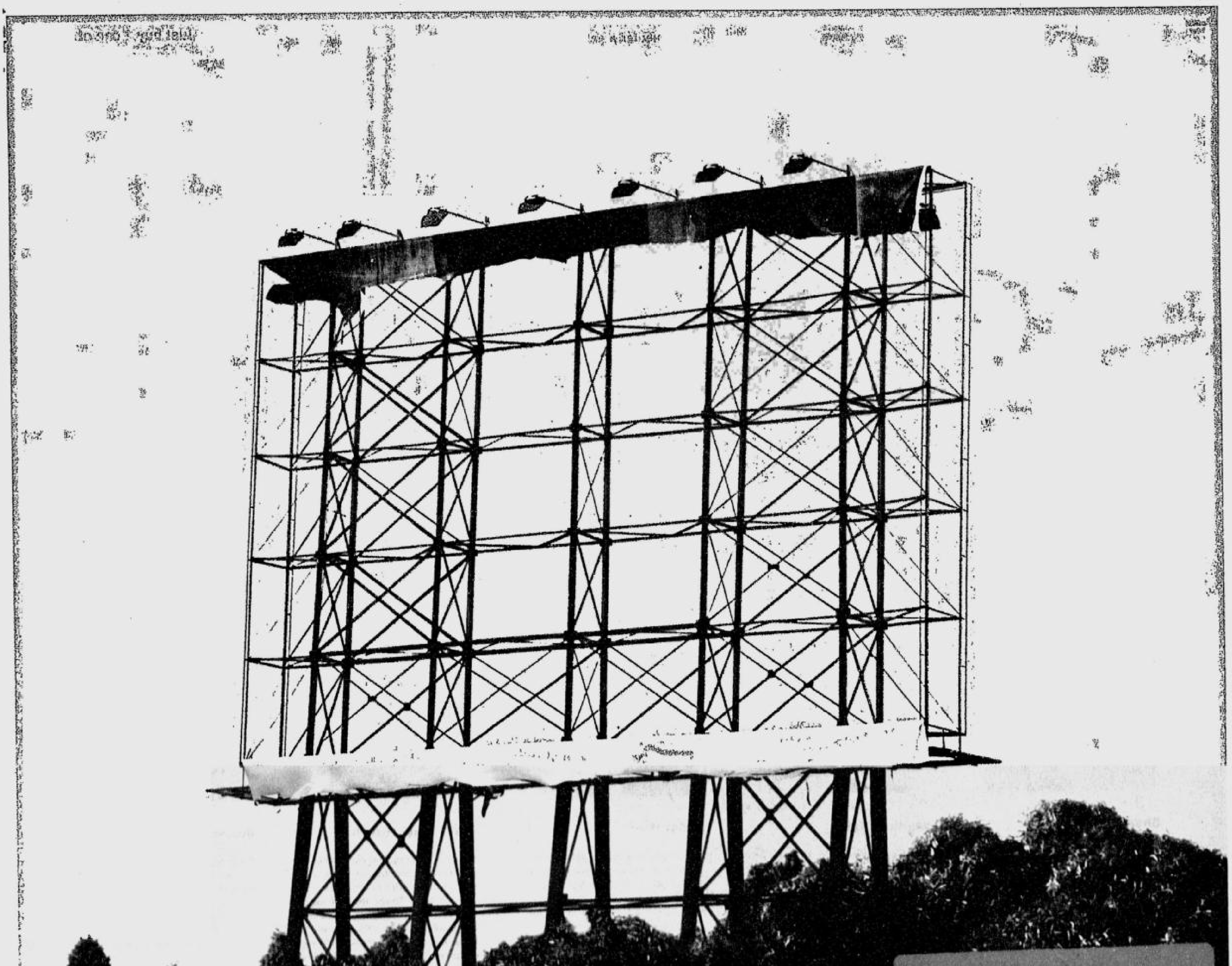
The servicer must be a stock corporation with a minimum capitalization of P10 million, or such higher amount as the SEC may prescribe.

The law also requires the servicer to be independent from the SPE or its trustee, and that they do not have common ownership, officers or directors.

As a concession to economies of scale, however, the owner of the assets can act as servicer on condition that the engagement is approved by the SEC or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, as the case may be.

With the implementing rules and regulations on securitization already in place, the ball is now in the court of the private sector to take advantage of the opportunities that the Securitizations Act offers.

(N.B. The full text of Republic. Act No. 9267 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations can be read in the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission, www.sec.gov.ph.)



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POETS in conversation /D1

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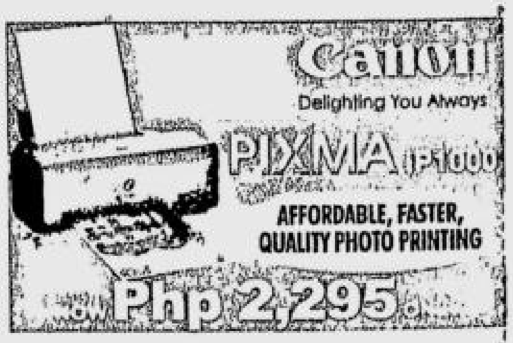
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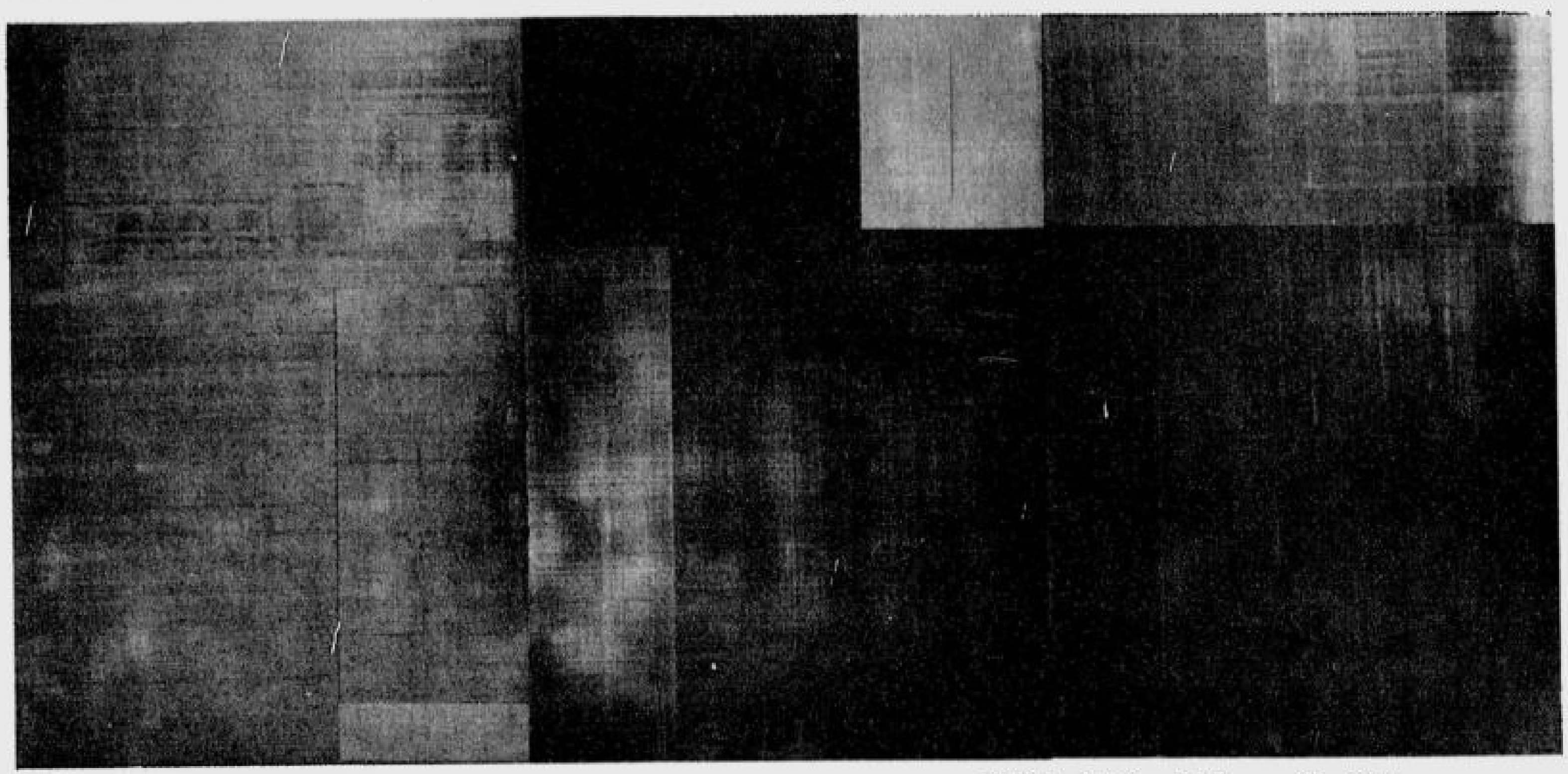
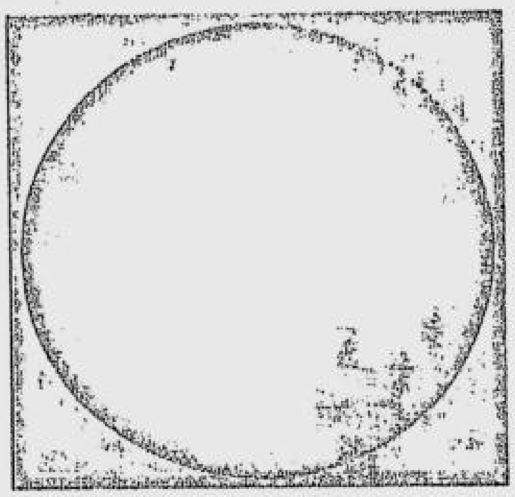


"REFUGE"

Norberto Carating comes home to Hiraya Gallery, haven of protest art, with defiant abstraction and protest of his own

The abstract SUN also rises



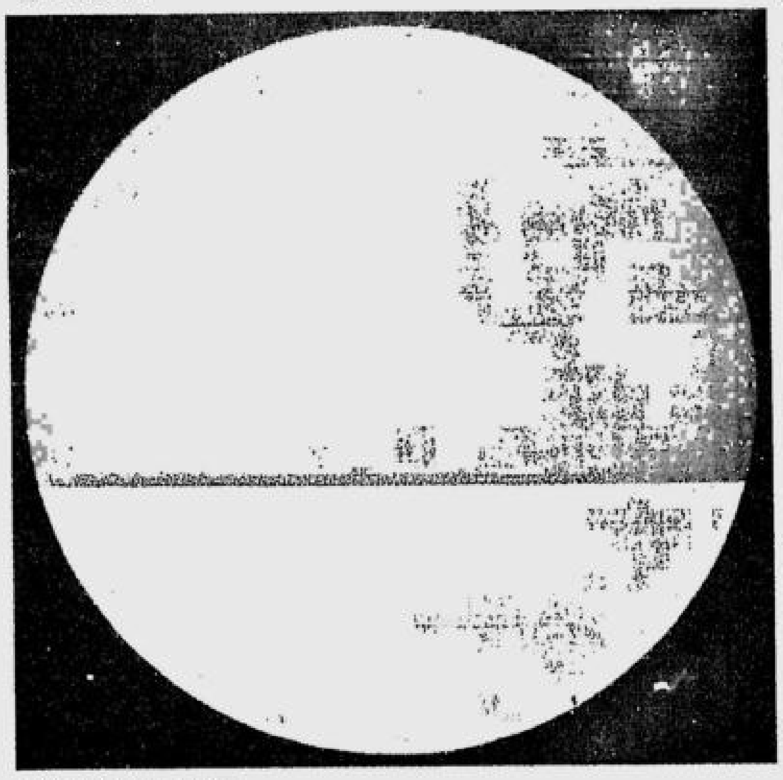
"RED Sun #2"

By James P. Ong

SUNRISES AND SUNSETS have been recurring themes in Norberto Carating's works since he began painting 35 years ago. He favors geometric shapes, and the squares and rectangles in his past pieces carry reflections of the sun and moon.

In "Light Veins, Deep Hues," which opens this Saturday in Hiraya Gallery (530 United Nations Ave., Manila; tel. 5233331), he pays direct homage to the source of light itself.

For the first time, he paints circles using metallic acrylic, his favorite medium. It's a feat because acrylic dries fast and and so he has to work swiftly in creating that perfect circle—or risk starting all over again.



"SUNSET, Sunrise"

It was in 2001 when Carating embarked on this new painting style, a synthesis of his previous methods.

"There's still emphasis on the texture—I am obsessed with texture—but it's more refined and subtle. It's not screaming," he explains.

Where before he would incorporate shells, sand, thread, paper and other objects into the canvas, now his only hint at texture is grooves which he creates using saw-like implements. It's his way of mimicking the texture of fabrics—from fine silk to jute sack. He doesn't use a paintbrush but has tools custom-made, inspired by trips to the hardware shops.

Shifting techniques

Changing techniques and themes is not alien to Carating, who was into figurative abstraction while studying at UP Fine Arts, and won awards for his depiction of underworld creatures, and public notice with his "Anilao" series, where he portrayed underwater landscape.

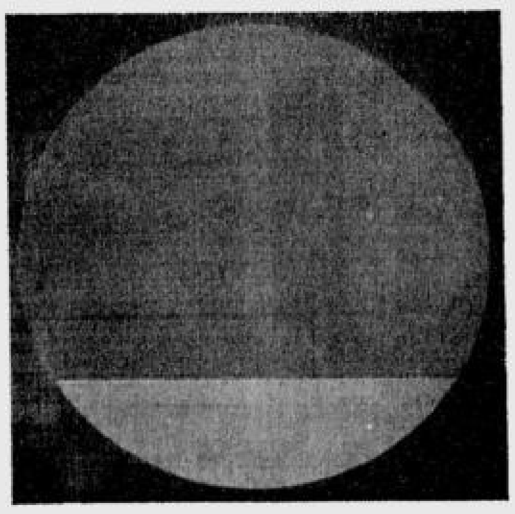
He has won almost all the major national competitions and exhibited in the United States and Europe. His last show was last year at Art Forum, Singapore's oldest gallery and arguably its most esteemed.

This month's exhibit at Hiraya comes on the heels of its 25th anniversary. It's a homecoming of sorts, because Carating was part of the group that inaugurated the gallery. But he kept away for 20 years when it concentrated on Social Realism.

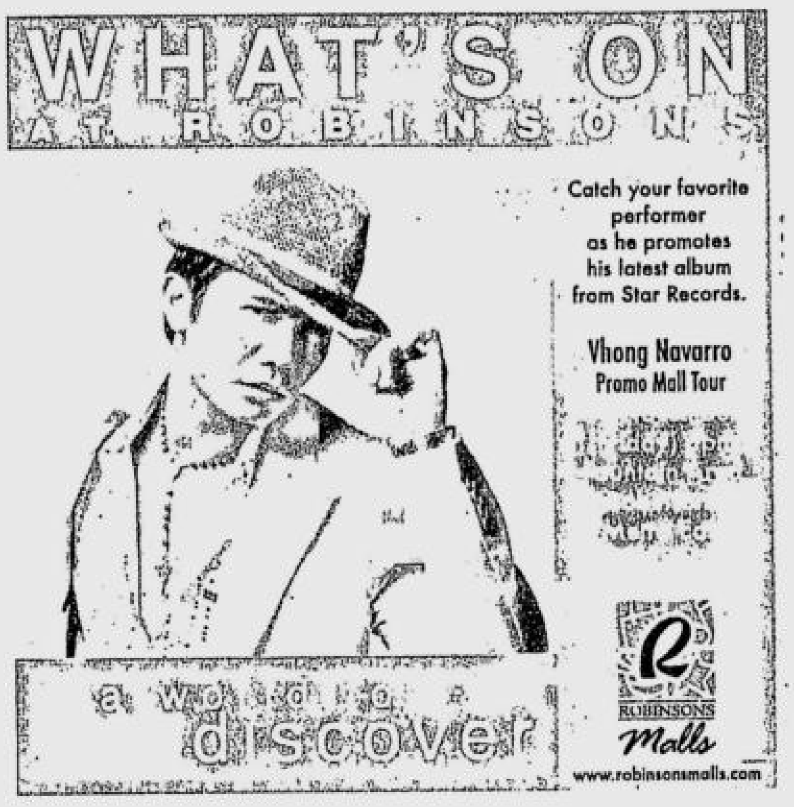
"How can you make 'protest art' with abstract? By using red? Black? I don't even try to be political with works," he says.

Some of the 12 works in the present collection were created as early as a year ago, originally for a gallery museum in Makati. Most are large pieces, like "Refuge," a triptych measuring 7 ft x 15 ft. The first panel belongs to an earlier show also at Hiraya and was originally titled "Paradise."

There are several works sized 4 ft x 4 ft. All have layers and layers of metallic acrylic—bronze, copper, silver and gold—which make them literally dazzle when hit by light. It's a rare, enchanting experience which can be encountered only with the works of this master.



"MOON Rising #2"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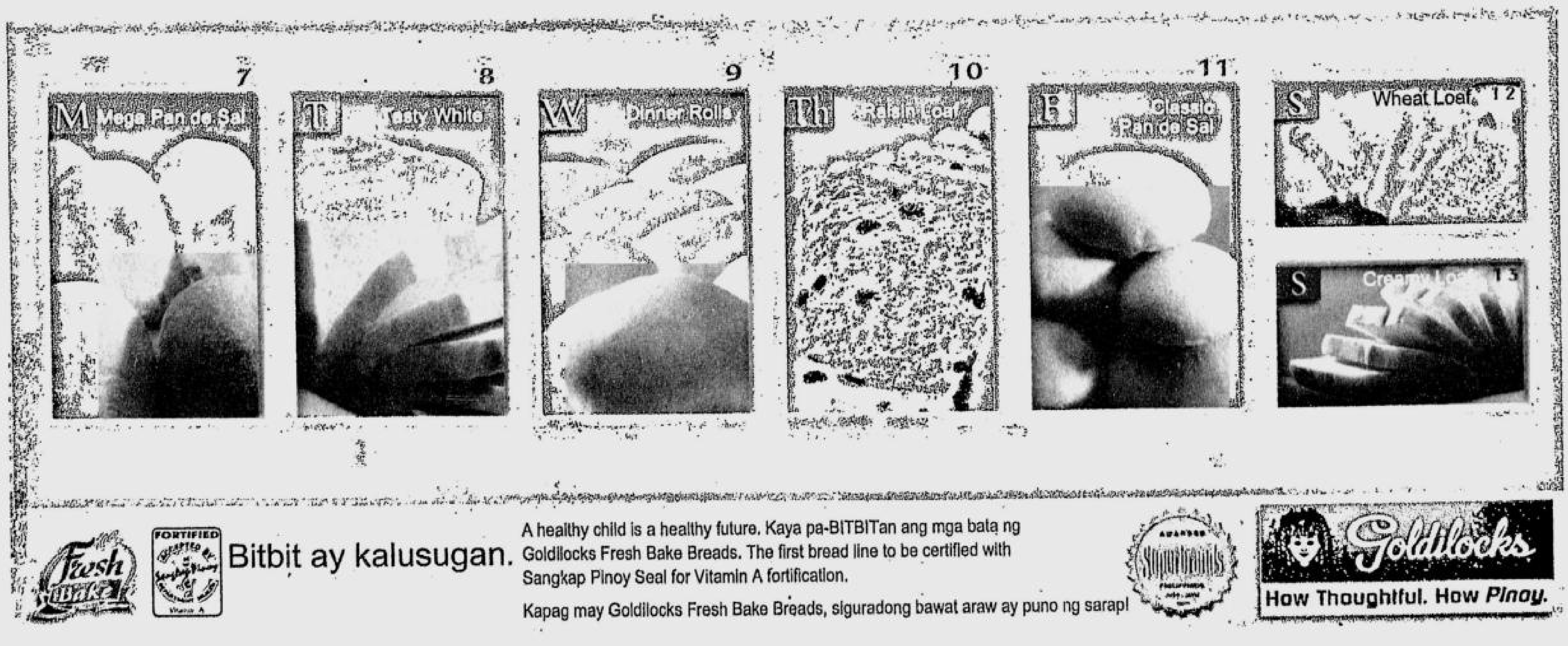
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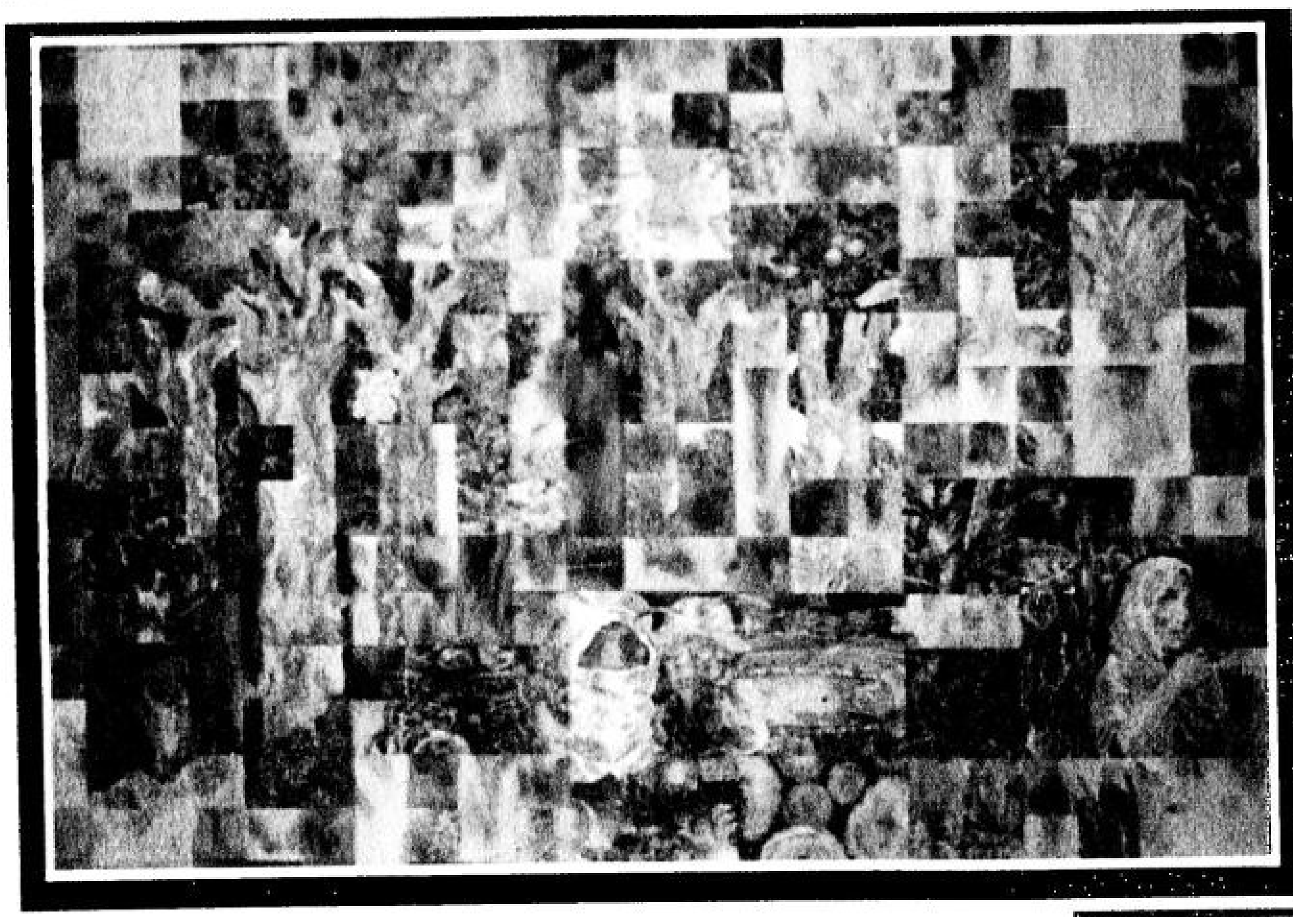
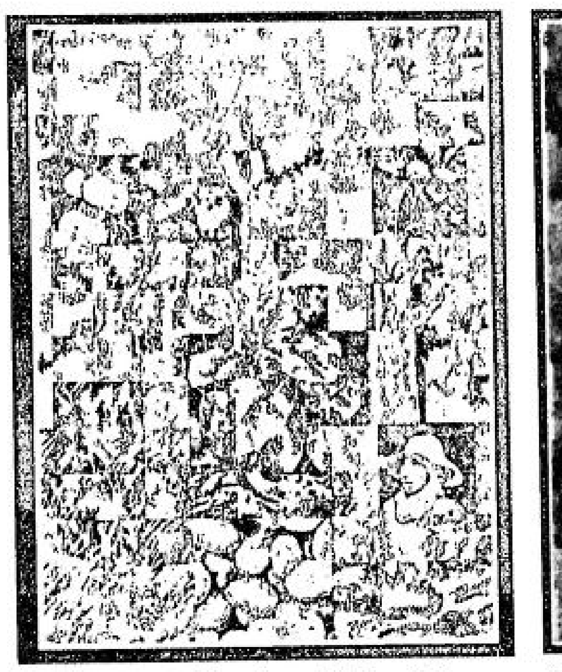
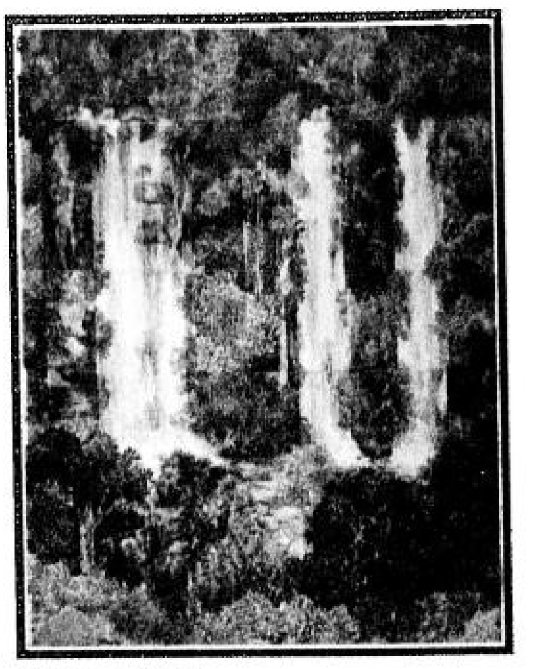




"FULL Grown" (above) and "Prime Cut Loggers Delight" (left)



"RISE and False"

ANER SEBASTIAN

An ecological narrative in living watercolor

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time." Such is the credo of nature lovers who feel they cannot revel in the earth's richness unless they are in its depths—whether under the forest canopy or the ocean's blue.

For his first solo exhibit, Aner Sebastian, part-time faculty member at the Feati University's College of Fine Arts and twice included in the annual Kulay Sa Tubig tilt's top five watercolorists, has chosen to depict nature. The choice is propelled by his disdain for the lackluster public attention to the degradation of the environment. Concern over the environment heightens only during crises or the aftermath of disasters, he complained. But when the disasters disappear from the headlines, public concern wanes and nature continues to be degraded.

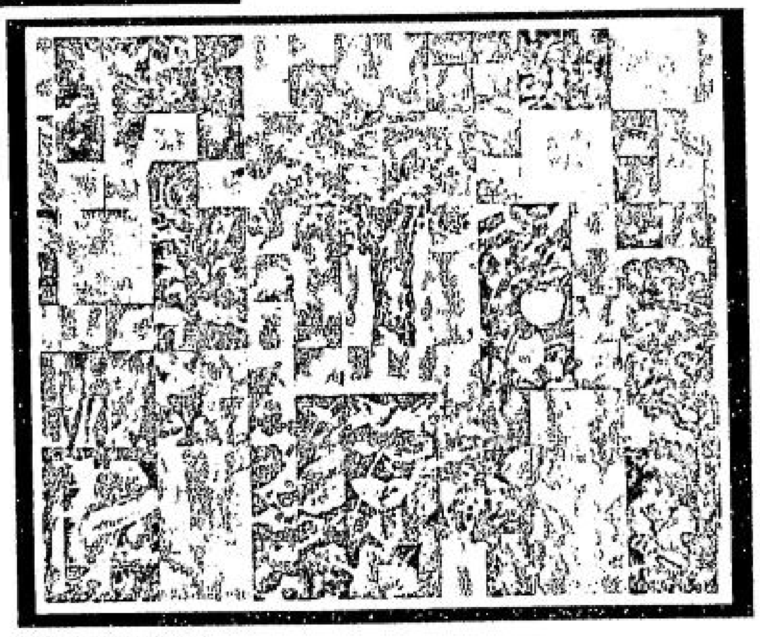
The show, "Weathered," which runs at the Artwalk (tel. 6373101), Level 4, of SM Megamall from Nov. 10-22, easily betrays its environmental concern. The title, however, is best understood in the Tagalog vernacular of "pinagtibay ng panahon" or "strengthened by time." It refers to the sturdy trees that have weathered the storms of degradation, both natural and manmade. Sadly, however, man's greed seems to have survived the same weathering.

Sebastian carries out his ecological campaign via lush visual narrative. His is protest art in the most beautiful form. The medium flows surely but does not assault as water cannons would. His message comes across effectively without burned effigies and violent confrontations.

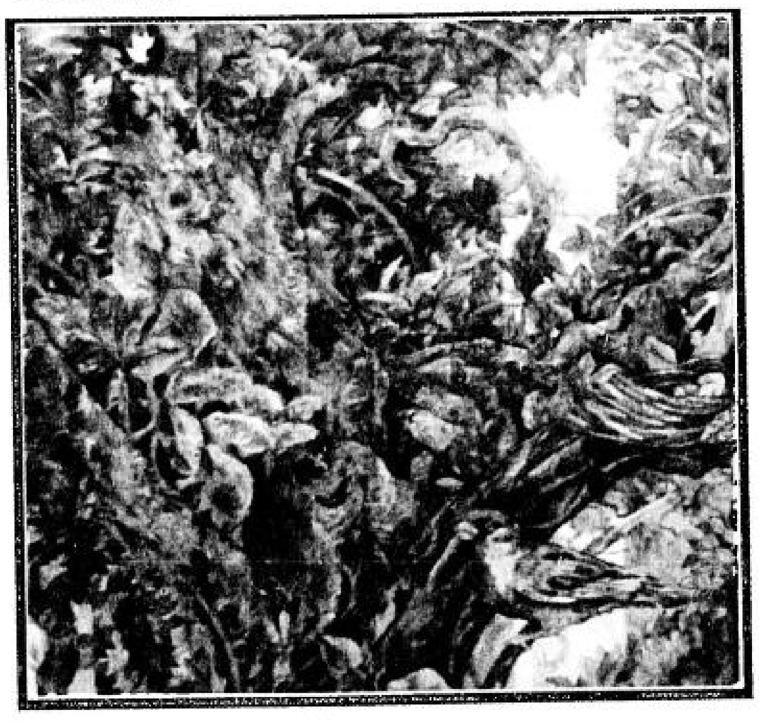
The narrative begins with pieces like "Vertical Limit," with its rectangles that magnify portions of the gnarled tree trunks, the rough bark indicating age, exactly the reason why forests should be left untouched.

"Intact" depicts a robust woodland while "Rain Forest" shows the subject awash with seeming drops of precipitation, the drips turning out to be plant branches.

Here is the perfect marriage of subject, medium, and skill: the watercolor medium and the technique capture the life-giving role of water and nature.



"HIDING Place"



"RETURN of the Sparrows"

Arresting

"Rise and False" arrests the senses. Apart from the wordplay that speaks of the ideal and the pristine that are no longer, the crispness of the rendition makes one almost hear the gushing of the falls and imagine being sprayed with wet flecks. At the same time, maybe because of the lines which imply columnar grid partitions (making the liquid deluge stand out even more), a relaxing calm may wash over the viewer, as though the scene is seen through panes of glass, the silence or total absence of sound bringing tranquility.

"Prime Cut Loggers Delight" is much darker than the rest of his pieces, and Sebastian's signature pixelate divisions are no longer enlarged parts of the whole picture. Within some of them are boxed the remnants of once-huge trunks, stumps that sit beside faces of lumberjacks, their illegal trade signified by faces covered with cloth.

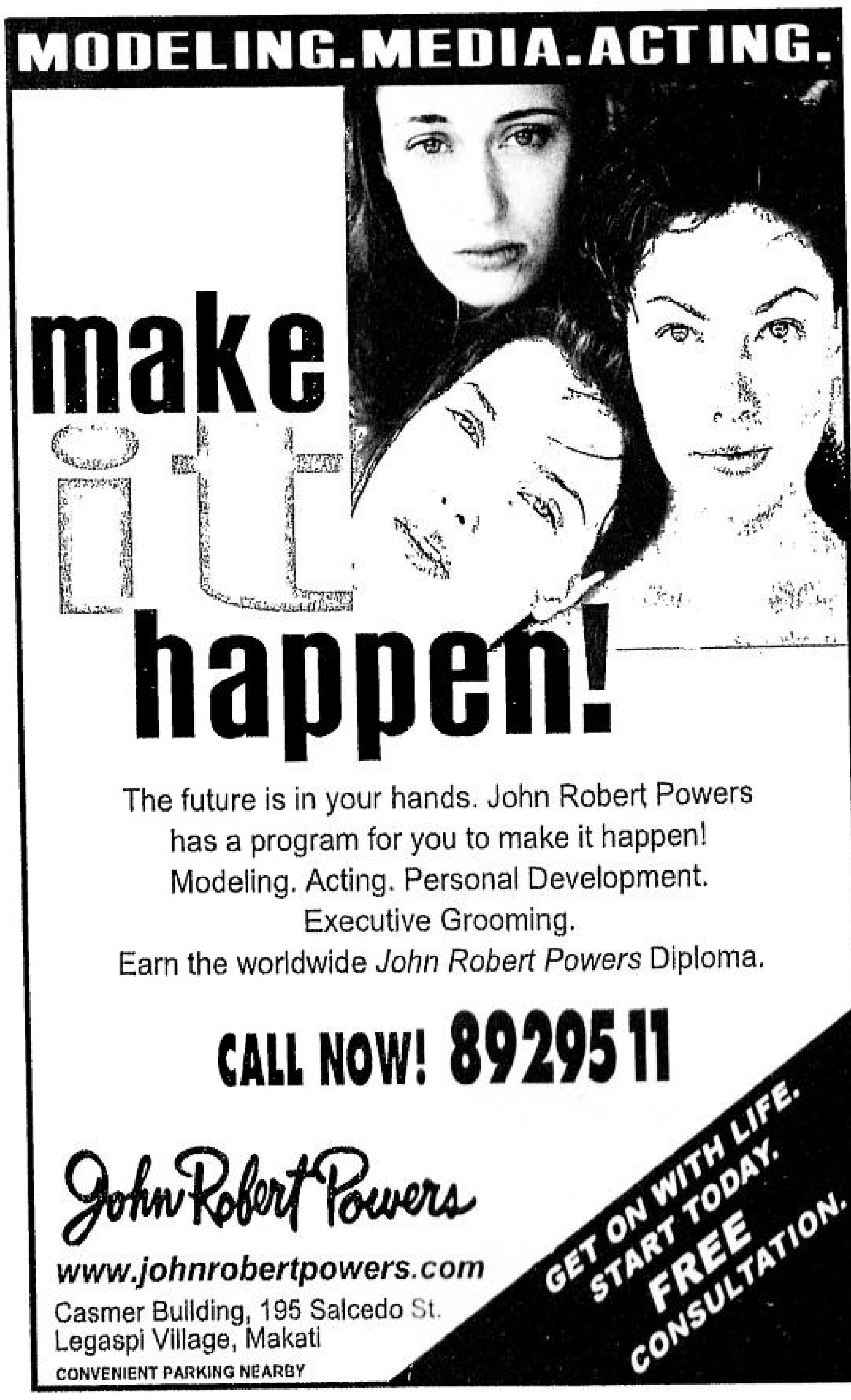
The pixilation is highly interesting for it suggests the televisions screen as well as censorship and the practice of providing anonymity to people who offer classified information. The straight lines and angles of pixilation lend a surreal quality to the works.

Despite the grimness of the works, Sebastian also tries to be positive, as can be gleaned from such works as "Recovery Period," "Growth," and "Full Grown" which interestingly has a man who looks like a farmer, the face no longer concealed, the shamefulness of environmental degradation absent.

There are many pieces which would be suitable for an ending. "Return of the Sparrows" teems with life. It shows a bird perched on its nest atop the branch of a tree burgeoning with health. As the title implies, the rehabilitation of the woodland has caused the avian comeback.

The finale illustrates the only kind of intrusion by man that nature would not mind: as a "Hiding Place." The simple message is that nature should be our refuge.

E-mail the author at majorday@gmail.com



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GILDA CORDERO-FERNANDO AND SYLVIA MENDEZ-VENTUR

Literary and visual artists b

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP ARTISTS and art lovers gathered together for the recent twin book launching and art exhibit of Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Sylvia Mendez Ventura at The Podium's Lounge Area.

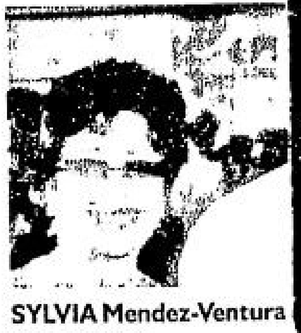
The books launched were Fernando's memoirs, "The Last Full Moon: Lessons on My Life," and Ventura's critique of Fernando's writings, "A Literary Journey with Gilda Cordero-Fernando."

The launch ran back-to-back with a painting exhibit of the two multitalented and dynamic ladies—"Paraisong Gulo Gulo" and "Bulaklakan."

National Artist and literary icon F. Sionil José led the opening ceremonies, paying tribute to Cordero-Fernando's art. Renowned painter and art educator Araceli Limcaoco-Dans, on the other hand, followed with remarks on Mendez-Ventura's art. Literary scholar Marielle Francisco gave her critique on the authors and their books.

The program, which featured Odette Alcantara as host, included a special Mindanao song number rendered by the Gamelan Ensemble, a group specializing in both traditional and newly composed music. Featured were UP's Paolo Pardo and Ma. Teresa Fernandez on the famous *kulintang* and *agung*, and UST's Teresa Montes on the *debakan*.

GILDA Cordero-Fernando and former NCCA chair Jimmy Laya



SYLVIA Mendez-Ventura
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This was followed by
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Randy and Karina David,
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Cosio with wife Ivy, Nation
Cora Alvina, and Cultural
pines' Nonon Padilla and

This affair was organ
old Liongoren Gallery,
Philippines Press, and The

CESAR and Joy Virata

MARCELO Fernando and Lanelle Abueva-Fernando

RANDY and Karina David

ALLAN Cosio

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The art in the machine

By Constantino C. Tejero

THERE ARE SOME THINGS thought to be inherently poetic, thus traditionally considered fitting subjects for art. Among these are human feelings, virtues and noble thoughts, the natural world.

Of the natural world, we think of the landscape, the weather, the four elements, both living things and inanimate objects.

On the other hand, there are also things considered unpoetic, thus thought unfit as subjects for art. One of these is the machine.

It wasn't until Whitman sang of the locomotive and the tools of the Industrial Age in his epic of America, upsetting a public weaned on a rigid soft diet of Tennyson and Longfellow, that the machine started to become accepted as subject in art and literature.

Soon artists in various fields and disciplines were announcing the Age of the Machine, ranging from Dovzhenko and Fritz Lang and René Clair in cinema to the Cubists and the Futurists and Fernand Léger in painting, to countless others in literature, music and dance, architecture.

The machine had become not only acceptable but was also fashionable in the arts. In fact, its intrinsic qualities had turned "poetic," if not in color then in form and tactility.

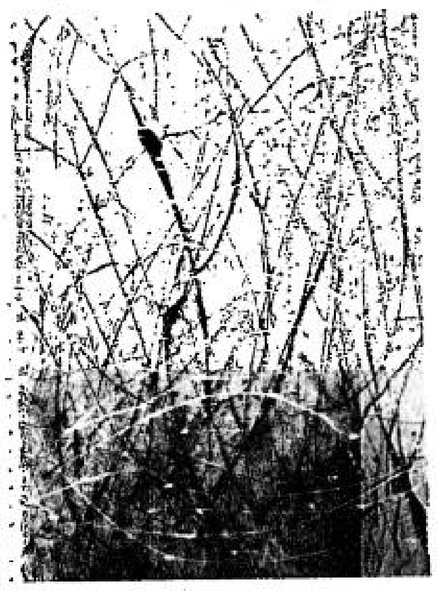
Fantasy of color and form

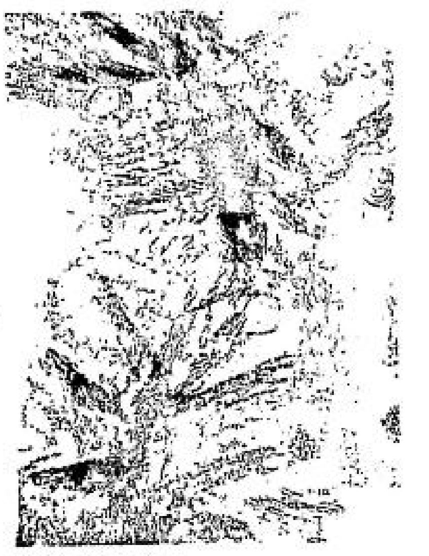
Yet, a century later, many artists are still wary of touching machinery, not to say postindustrial technology, for subject of their art. They'd rather himn ever so delicately a bouquet of baby's breath than sing of the virtues of automotive engine.

Yes, it takes some delicacy and daring for one to imagine and reimagine, invent and reinvent, the machine for the art gallery.

Bokeng Ancanan has shown precisely that in "Networks and Internets," his exhibit of pieces in acrylic on canvas, presented by The Big & Small Art Co. at the lobby lounge of Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

BOKENG Ancanan with his artwork


"INTERNET" I


"NETWORK" I

The show's theme and imagery are rather high-mindedly described as "the interconnections of environment, society, human nature, situations and minds of young people, influenced and affected by today's technology."

It would take a fantasist to visualize what's actually happening in the Internet, computer networks, or mobile-phone cell sites. And we'd say Ancanan is an A1 fantasist.

Because this is, indeed, a fantasia of decoration and design, the invisible made visible in a mind-blowing abstraction of color and form. The pieces are composed mostly of washes of warm or cool hues, complementary or monochromatic, then covered with overlapping planes, intersecting lines, streaking, dripping and spattering.

Beyond decoration

Some of these pieces are large-scale, they can overwhelm. Superficially it is decorative art of a high order, and, blown-up, it may even be seen as poster art. But the viewer's mind is bound to go beyond that.

The sunbursts and intersecting lines, of course, can be interpreted as the energy and speed of the new technology, or the power of communication. What is shown here is not the surface of the machine but its intrinsic qualities. What we are seeing is the machine's imagined soul.

A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Advertising, from Far Eastern University, Ancanan has been a finalist in the Shell and Metrobank national art contests and a Jurors' Choice awardee of the Art Association of the Philippines competition.

Based in Amadeo, Cavite, he is an art instructor of several schools in the province. Though he is a member of numerous artists' groups and has joined innumerable group exhibits, "Networks and Internets" is his first one-man show.

We'd say Ancanan is among our many underrated artists, relatively unknown but certainly superior to a few overhyped ones with facile techniques and simplistic ideas.

RA

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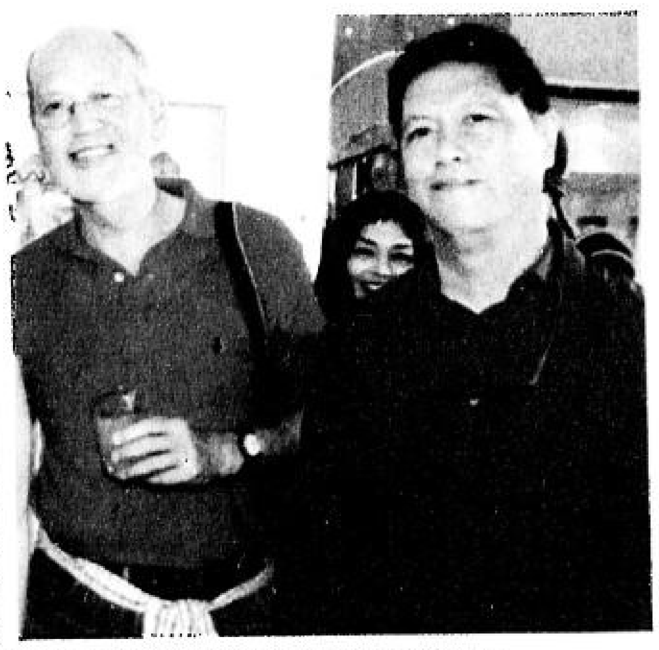
Podium.

PAINTER and art educator Aracelli Dans talks about Ventura's art.

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil José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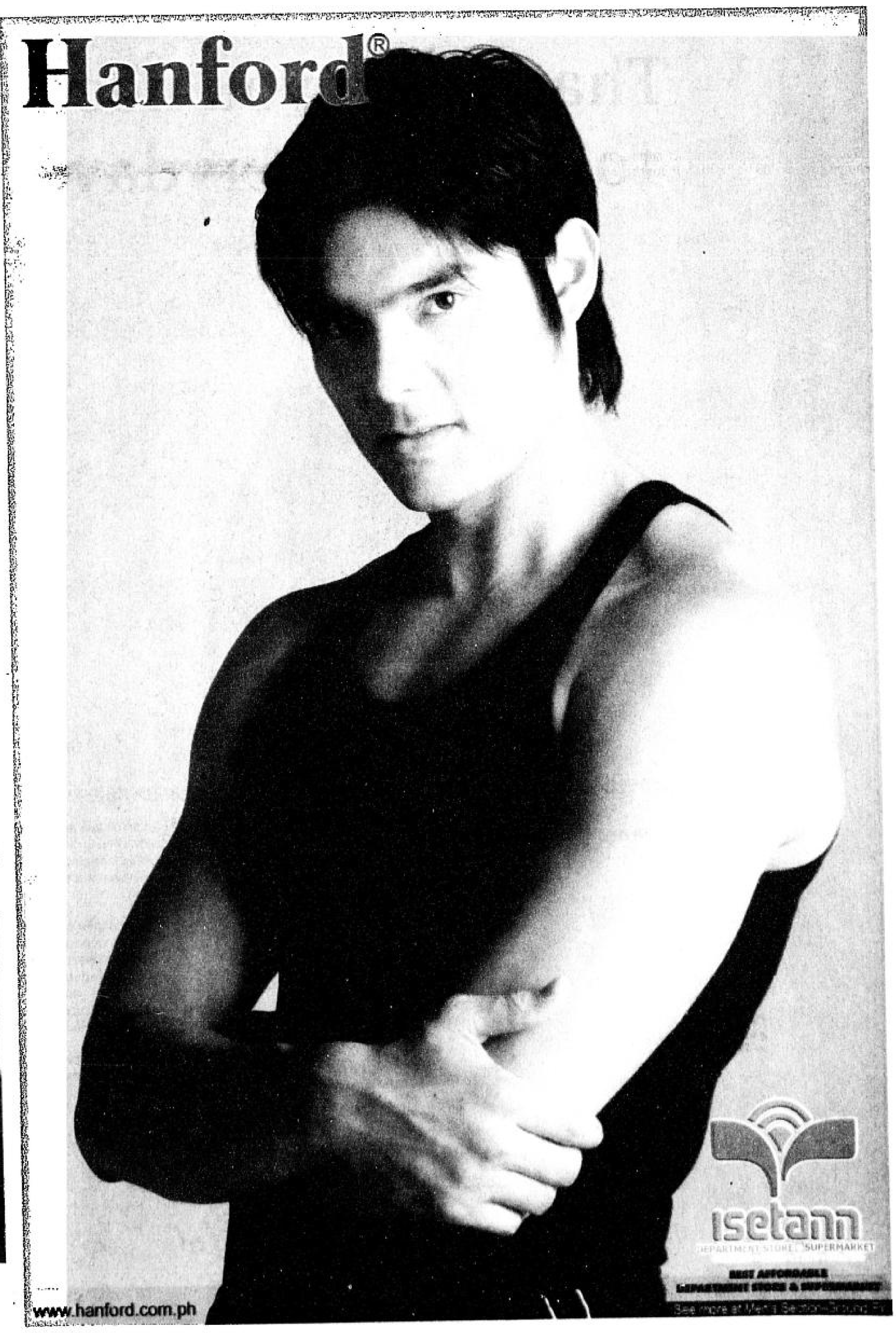
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Figuration disciple completes transition to abstraction

Spiritual forces have propelled Carlo Magno's art to a higher, deeper, more meditative realm

"EVEN Tide"

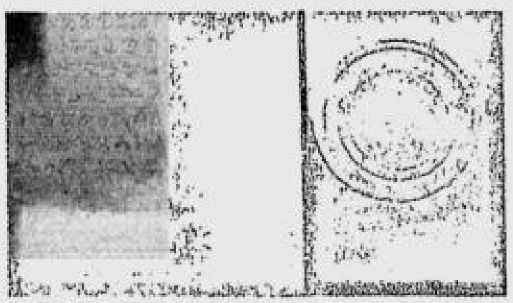
By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

A STAUNCH DISCIPLE OF FIGURATION when he first emerged in the art scene, Carlo Magno has successfully reinvented himself as abstractionist, acquiring new ways of seeing, thinking and feeling, and of handling materials deemed essential in art-making.

His pursuit of abstraction has conjured images that bespeak of the indomitable spirit imbuing his transition.

Judging from his oeuvre these last three years, beginning with "Transformation" in 2003, through "On Higher Ground," "Transcendence" and "Leap of Faith" in 2004, to "Abounding Prosperity" in the early part of the year, Magno has achieved the phenomenal transformation, a decision fraught with many formidable challenges, as well as attendant risks to one's career.

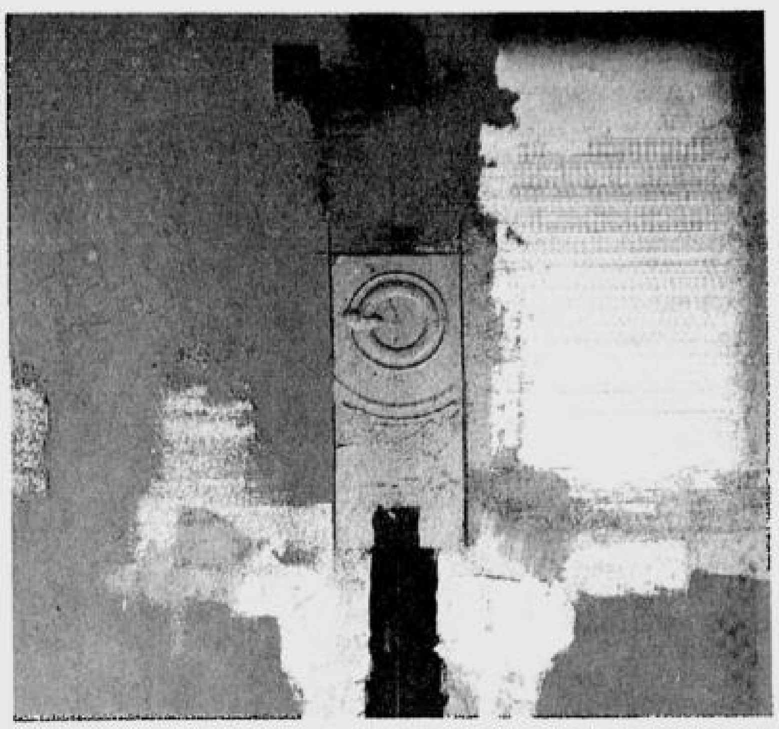
In this major exhibit of recent works, Galerie Joaquin faced up to the curatorial challenge of mounting the artist's relatively large works that needed generous space and excellent illumination.


"JOYFUL Heart"

Spiritual growth

Dubbed "Firm Foundation," the exhibit reveals Magno's growing preoccupation with the spiritual forces that have propelled his art to a higher, deeper, indeed more meditative, realm.

A born-again Christian, Magno and his wife Susanne have been active in the ministry of the New Life Christian Center and the pursuit of its motto "Touching People, Changing Lives." His religious beliefs have seeped into his canvases.


"CHIVALRY"

The works on show reveal the firm grounding Magno has acquired since his epochal transition. The pieces, as always, have a hypnotic quality, vast color fields in the artist's now signature hues, initially disquieting but ultimately calming.

The works attest to Magno's firm command of color and form, radiating a sense of stability and serenity. Through these works, Magno reveals his willingness to take risks in his compositions, echoing the simplicity and directness of his vision.

Magno has clearly gained confidence in handling the intricacies of and crafting in mixed media, particularly in applying acrylic paint premixed with sand particles for subdued textural effects. His instincts have become sharper, too, giving way to spontaneous outbursts that spill over the preordained portion of the field.

Rare delicacy

His spare, admirably restrained brushwork, perpetually guided by a luminist perspective, radiates an abiding delicacy rare in these days of abstract expressionism.

The relatively smaller pieces, with their cool and gentle hues, are in themselves subjects for meditation—a circle within a square, circles upon circles, others inchoate curvilinear forms that the mind must nurture to completion.

What is particularly endearing in Magno's new works is his evolving minimalist tendencies, a striving to achieve the impact of the Buddhist adage that less is more. Then there is the artist's obsessive use of the circle motif which betrays his firm foundation in Chinese classical studies and philosophy. As the purest geometric form, the orb assumes the aura of a heavenly body, expressive of the Chinese concept of being boundless and immeasurable. Thus, East and West coalesce in Magno's works, as in the large work "Peaceful Duel."

Magno has endeavored to strike a balance between objectivity and subjectivity, creating interpretations of spaces, austere, ethereal and deeply personal. Though his early architectural leanings manage to surface accidentally (he studied architecture for one year and later specialized in painting the interiors of houses), he has succeeded in exploring the themes of reflection and meditation, opacity and transparency, as well as intimacy and expansiveness.

In such works as "From Glory to Glory," "Wealth and Learning," and "Joyful Heart," the artist unleashes the spellbinding imagery of conjured space suffused with intimacy and delicacy.

The new works have more innovative touches, as in "Joyful Heart," where the left half of the painting containing ancient inscriptions are counter-pointed by a whirling orb on the other side signifying that wisdom is useless unless there is emotion. And there are the squares, symbols of windows to the world, and to the beauty that must be appreciated to complete the process of creation.

Carlo Magno's works are on exhibit, Nov. 9-20, at Galerie Joaquin, 2/F 371 corner P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 7239253/9418.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.

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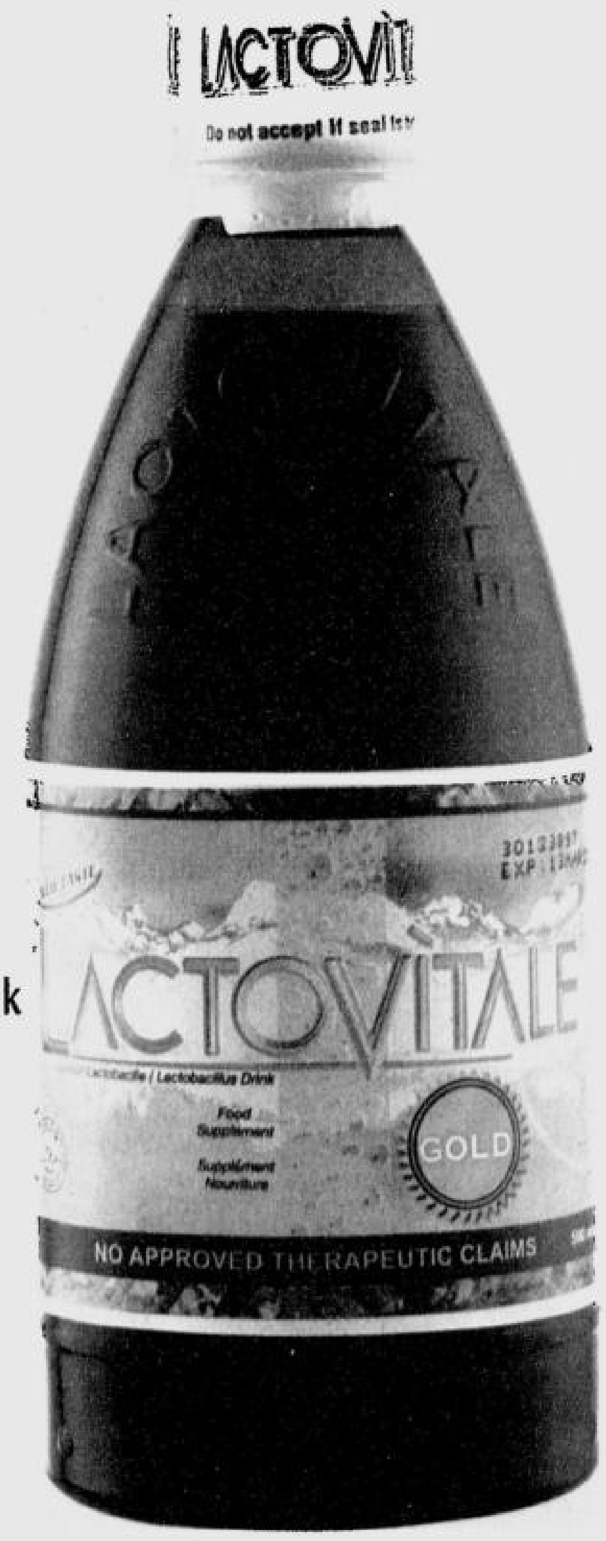

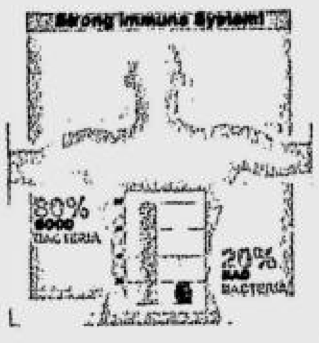

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Bernardo Pacquing presents his latest one-man show dubbed "Close to a Measurable Extent," Nov. 10-22, at the Finale Art Gallery and West Gallery in SM Megamall simultaneously. From putting together layered daubs of modeling paint, splattering, doodles and floating forms, he is now concentrating on geometric and two-dimensional forms. Call 6341284.

MUSICAL tribute to Anne Frank /D3

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POETS confront their audience of poetry lovers.

Poets also tell tales

Marjorie Evasco and R. Zamora Linmark reveal the true story behind their poetry

By Shirley O. Lua
Photos by Rudy Esperas

JORGE LUIS BORGES DECLARES that a poet is not merely an "utterer of lyric, birdlike notes," but he/she is a maker, a teller of a tale. "A tale wherein all the voices of mankind might be found—not only the lyric, the wistful, the melancholy, but also the voices of courage and of hope."

And perhaps the best tale of the poet is the story behind the poem. This is the intriguing dimension to "Writers in Conversation," a special literary event recently at A Different Bookstore in Eastwood City that featured Marjorie Evasco and R. Zamora Linmark. The two writers read poems from their books and discussed their poetry.

Evasco's two books of poems—"Dreamweavers: Selected Poems 1976-1986" (Aria Editions, 1986) and "Ochre Tones: Poetry in English and Cebuano" (Salimbayan Books, 1999)—display a gathering of voices—of dreams and memories, of language in flight: the call of the Great Heron, the chant of the dream weavers, the kissing-click of a gecko, the blue-song of a kingfisher, a daughter's lullaby, the prayer of a mother, a beloved's silence, and the weeping of desert women carrying oases in their clay pots.

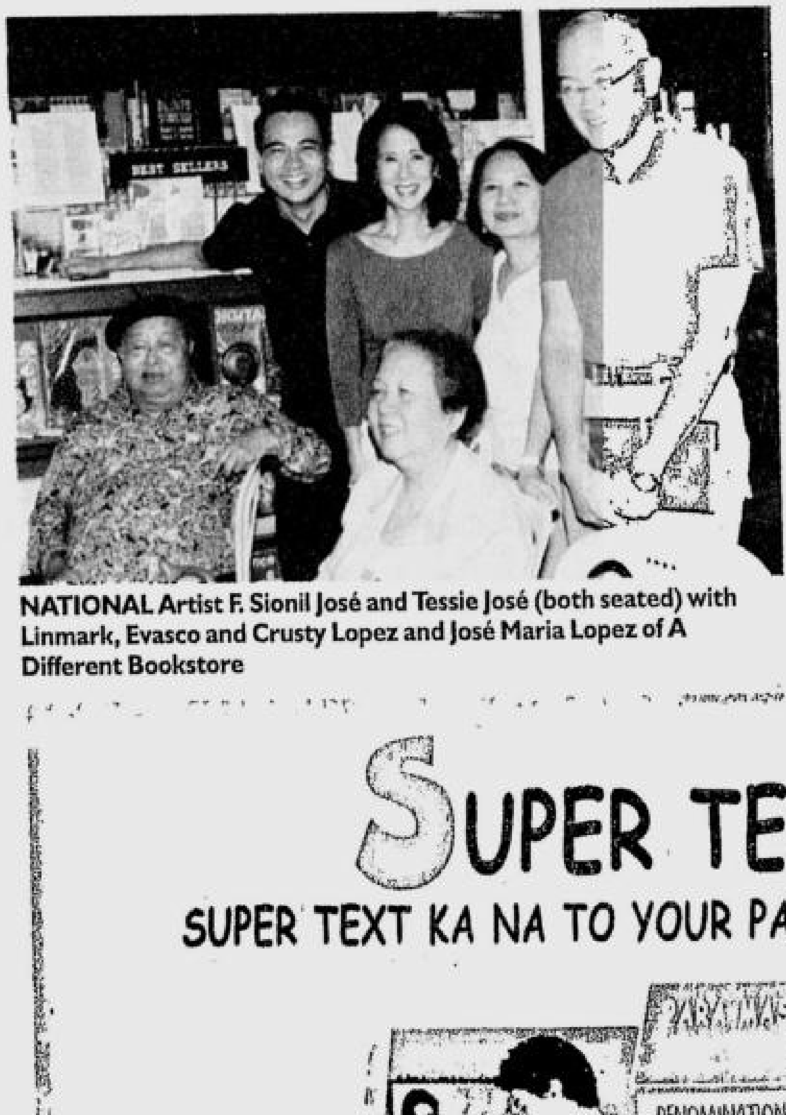
The Filipino-American Linmark has initially achieved American renown as a fictionist via his novel, "Rolling the R's" (Kaya Press, 1996), but he has dabbled in poetry as well and in fact released this year his first collection, "Prime Time Apparitions" (Hanging Loose Press, 2005). His poetry holds voices—of memories and desires, of language in fearless vigor: the cry of a kiwi bird, the broken sound of prayer, a lover's laugh, the opening lines of a Gershwin song, the killing-me-softly moo, the million buzzes of cicadas, and the tap-tap of rain.

Distinguished in their own way, each possesses a style that defines the singularity of his or her poetry. Evasco's poems brim with precision and economy, while Linmark's delight in long lines and rhythmic innovation.

"My economy has something to do with the image," Evasco said. "It's not really words but having a clear image in your mind, and like a painter maybe, finding the right combination of shape and color. Color in poetry is the tonal feeling, the emotion thought through. My verses are always re-verses, or revisions. That is my style. Yours (Linmark's) is a more discursive kind of poetry. You go by tonal inflexion, calibration of tone; my calibration has something to do with images."

On Evasco's poem "Origami," Linmark said, "The last line, 'The paper will be pure and empty,' is an antithesis to our process because we begin with a paper—that pure, still sheet of white paper that we have and are responsible for staining with ink, with images that could produce emotional response, intellectual discourse, or perhaps, boredom. Yours is the reversal. You turn back to the normal state, the paper pure and empty."

POETS/ D4



NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil José and Tessie José (both seated) with Linmark, Evasco and Crusty Lopez and José Maria Lopez of A Different Bookstore

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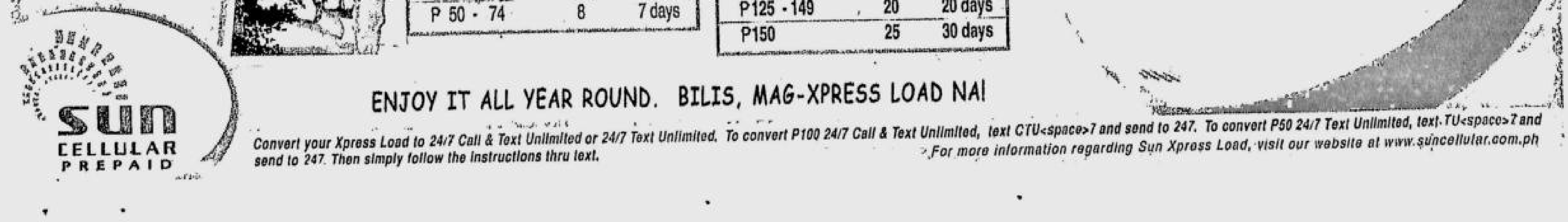

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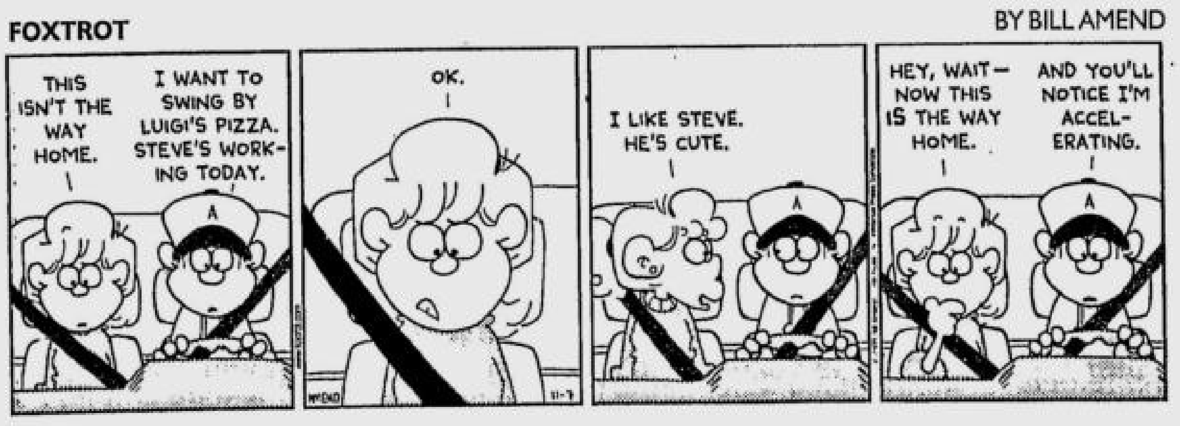
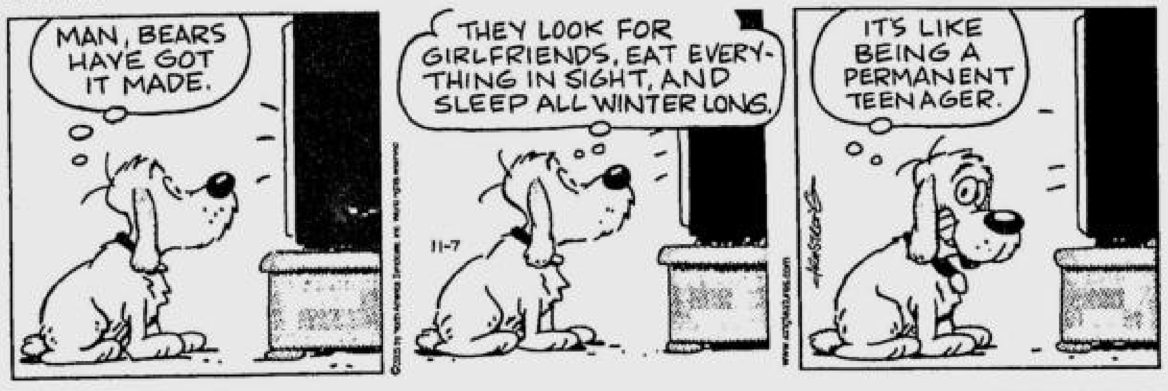
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THIS ISN'T THE WAY HOME.
I WANT TO SWING BY LUIGI'S PIZZA. STEVE'S WORKING TODAY.
OK.
I LIKE STEVE. HE'S CUTE.
HEY, WAIT— NOW THIS IS THE WAY HOME.
AND YOU'LL NOTICE I'M ACCELERATING.
11-7

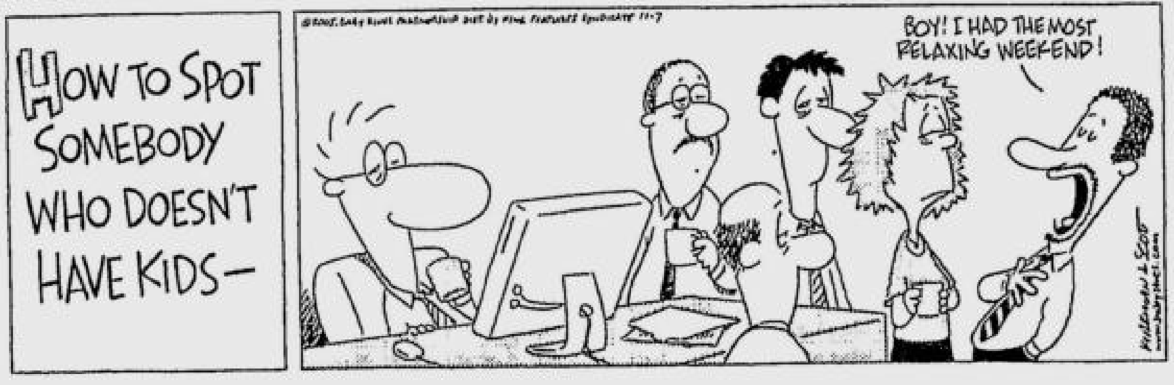
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAN, BEARS HAVE GOT IT MADE.
THEY LOOK FOR GIRLFRIENDS, EAT EVERYTHING IN SIGHT, AND SLEEP ALL WINTER LONG.
11-7
IT'S LIKE BEING A PERMANENT TEENAGER.

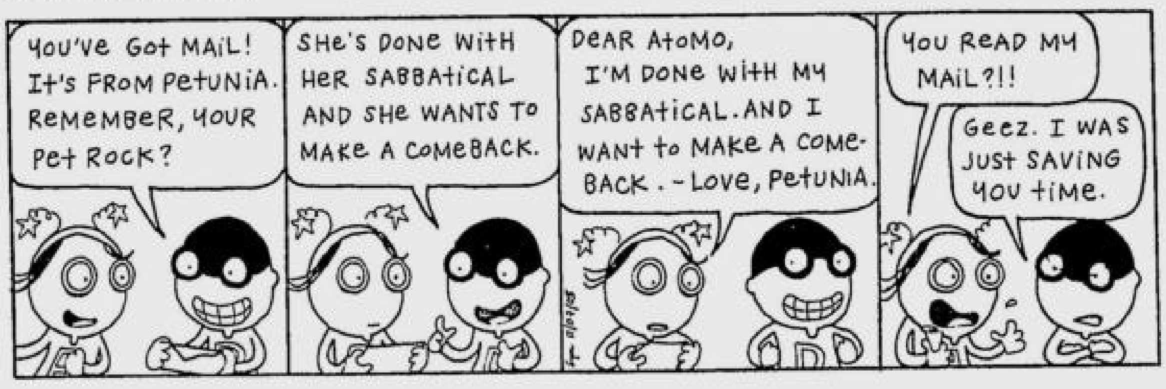
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW TO SPOT SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T HAVE KIDS—
BOY! I HAD THE MOST RELAXING WEEKEND!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You've Got MAIL! It's FROM PetUNiA. ReMeMBeR, YOUR Pet Rock?
SHe's DONe WitH HeR SABBAtiCAL AND SHe WANTS To MAKe A COMeBACK.
DeAR AtoMO, I'M DONe With MY SABBAtiCAL. AND I WANt to MAKe A COMe-BACK. - Love, PetUNiA.
You ReAD MY MAiL?!!
Geez. I WAS JUSt SAVING YOU tiMe.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong communication skills. You're independent and intelligent. You often rise to a high level in your field. You're very idealistic in your youth. In your closest relationships, you are generally the dominant one. However, you know the value of sharing. You're not afraid of commitment. Increased solitude this year will help you to learn something important.
Birthdate of: Al Hirt, jazz artist; Albert Camus, writer; Joni Mitchell, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Financial matters are extremely confusing today. You're not sure whether to act or not. In the end, someone in authority decides to show you generosity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Either you're paralyzed today, or if you act, your actions are misunderstood. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't! Ironically, at the end of the day, others applaud you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're so discouraged today that you're tempted to pull a fast one or do something dishonest. Don't do this. Your self-respect matters more. By the end of the day, the cavalry arrives!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Make sure you know the difference between selflessly helping someone and being a martyr. Don't let others take advantage of you. By evening, partners and children are happy with you again.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What starts out as an extremely confusing day ends up as a rewarding, happy and productive situation. Even you are surprised.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Things are very confusing at work today. By evening, a happy social event takes your mind off all this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Something you counted on from someone else is suddenly not forthcoming. Resources you needed are not delivered or are canceled in some way. By this evening, all will be well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Feelings of inadequacy or fear of discovery make you avoid someone today. Nothing seems to go your way. Therefore, you're surprised this evening when everything turns out so well!

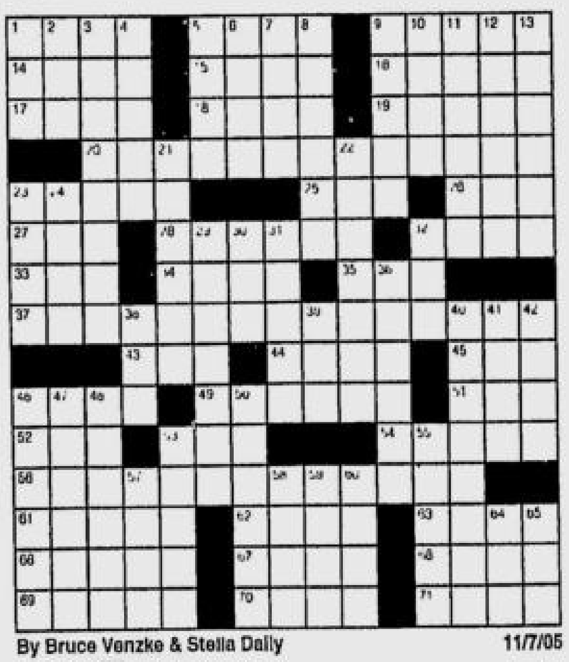
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You want to avoid an unpleasant situation today. You feel like hiding. You also feel taken advantage of. Everything improves enormously by late in the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your dealings with friends and groups will discourage you today. You feel misled, confused and let down by someone. Ironically, at the end of the day, something restores your faith in everything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't blindly follow orders from authority figures today. Things are not as they appear. You could end up doing the wrong thing. If you wait, with patience, someone wise and encouraging will show you the way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Matters connected with foreign travel, publishing, the media and higher education are so confusing—you're nonplussed. By evening, your confusion turns into happy relief.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
11/7/05

ACROSS

1 Abundant
5 Golden Rule word
9 Reverse of a single
14 Baghdad's country
15 Fail at a diet
16 Dismantled
17 Waiter's handout
18 City north of Brussels
19 Taking to court
20 "Dawn Patrol" star
23 Young wolf
25 Jersey cape
26 Mal de __
27 Slippery fish
28 Regard as true
32 Russ. and Lat., once
33 Knack
34 Uneven haircut
35 TV guide abbr.
37 "White Christmas" co-star
43 Brandy letters
44 Look intently
45 Poetic praise
46 Rub over
49 Spuds
51 Bad in Limousin
52 Part of USDA
53 Be unwell
54 Endangered ape, briefly
56 "The Golden Girls" star
61 Relish
62 Affair of honor
63 Unit cost
66 Liqueur flavoring
67 Seth's father
68 Not-so-educated guess
69 Has a yen for
70 Puppies' cries
71 Mint or sage, for example

DOWN

1 Crater edge
2 High dudgeon
3 Taut engine parts
4 Match in value
5 Unsightly fruit?
6 Manicurist's target
7 Stadium level
8 Interstate access
9 Like an Afro
10 Give the cold shoulder to
11 Language quirks
12 Main meal
13 Border cutters
21 Involuntary contractions
22 Squealer
23 Put on
24 Sub
29 Orderless
30 Train unit
31 Exodus setting
32 __ Paulo
36 Beet soup
38 Eden woman
39 Middling grade
40 Propose for election
41 Cheese with a red rind
42 Cry out in pain
46 European capital
47 Terrarium pet
48 Dory or Andre
50 Dawn-'til-dusk
53 Farming plots
55 Draconian
57 Lion's share
58 Autobahn auto
59 Certain tide
60 Donations to the poor
64 Driveway coating
65 Flow out

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	G	H	D	A	D		T	A	N	K	C	A	R
U	P	R	A	I	S	E		E	D	U	A	R	D	O
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A	B	E			S	T	O	N	Y			L	E	G
C	O	P	E	S		A	I	D		S	H	A	D	E
K	N	I	S	H		P	R	O		L	E	N	D	L
F	I	C	T	I	V	E		F	R	A	N	K	I	E
U	T	T	E	R	E	R		F	A	T	N	E	S	S
L	E	S	S	E	E	S		S	H	E	A	T	H	S

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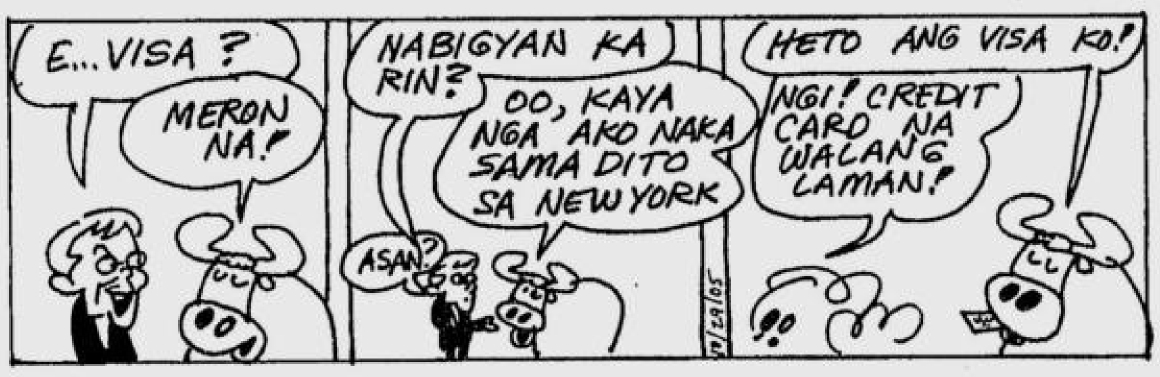
11/7/05

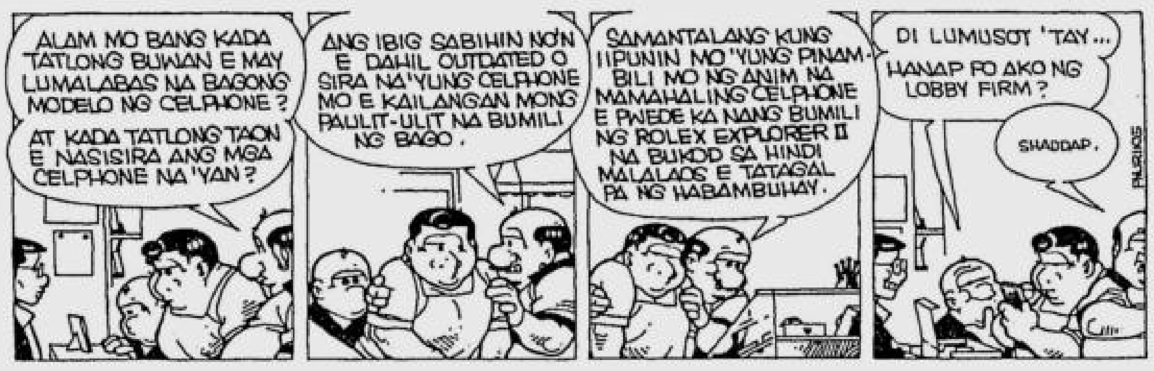
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


E...VISA?
MERON NA!
NABIGYAN KA RIN?
ASAN?
OO, KAYA NGA AKO NAKA SAMA DITO SA NEW YORK
HETO ANG VISA KO!
NGI! CREDIT CARD NA WALANG LAMAN!

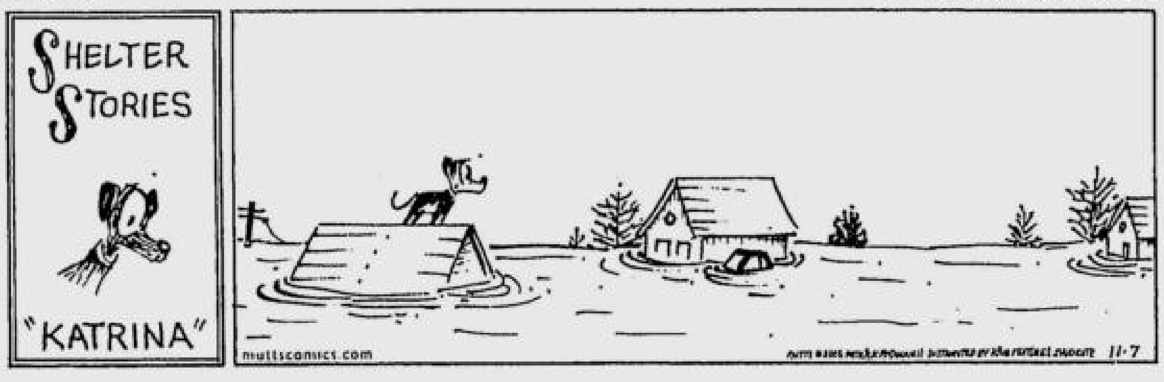
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BANG KADA TATLONG BUWAN E MAY LUMALABAS NA BAGONG MODELO NG CELPHONE?
AT KADA TATLONG TAON E NASISIRA ANG MGA CELPHONE NA 'YAN?
ANG IBIG SABIHIN NO'N E DAHIL OUTDATED O SIRA NA 'YUNG CELPHONE MO E KAILANGAN MONG PAULIT-ULIT NA BUMILI NG BAGO.
SAMANTALANG KUNG IIPUNIN MO 'YUNG PINAMBILI MO NG ANIM NA MAMAHALING CELPHONE E PWEDE KA NANG BUMILI NG ROLEX EXPLORER II NA BUKOD SA HINDI MALALAOS E TATAGAL PA NG HABAMBUHAY.
DI LUMUSOT 'TAY...
HANAP PO AKO NG LOBBY FIRM?
SHADDAP.

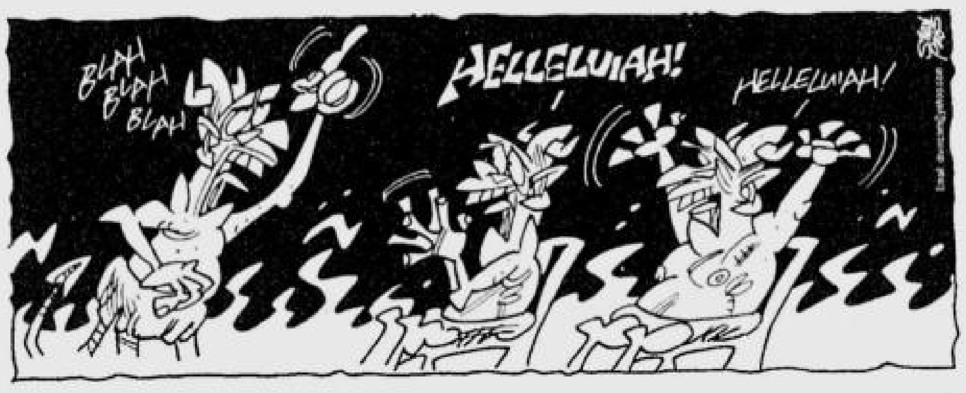
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"KATRINA"
muttscomics.com
11-7

DIVINE COMEDY

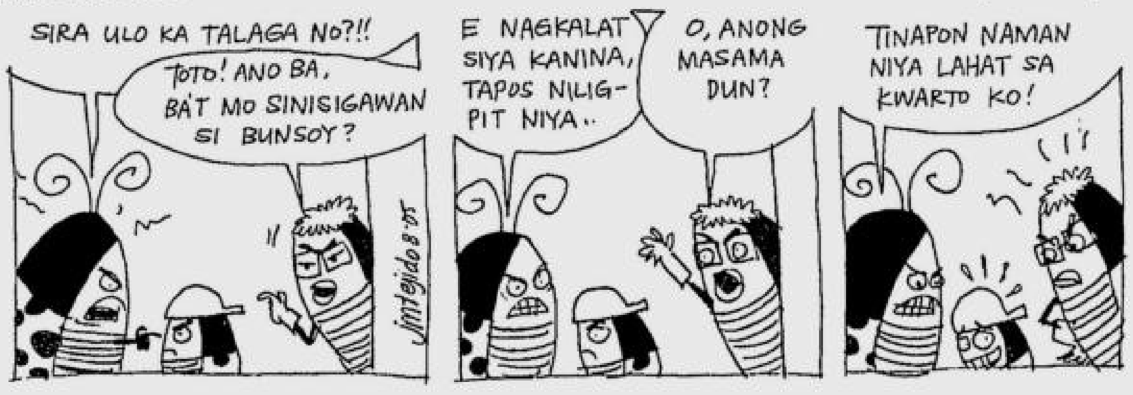
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BLAH BLAH BLAH
HELLELUIAH!
HELLELUIAH!

MGA DEMONYO NA NAGPI-PRAYER MEETING

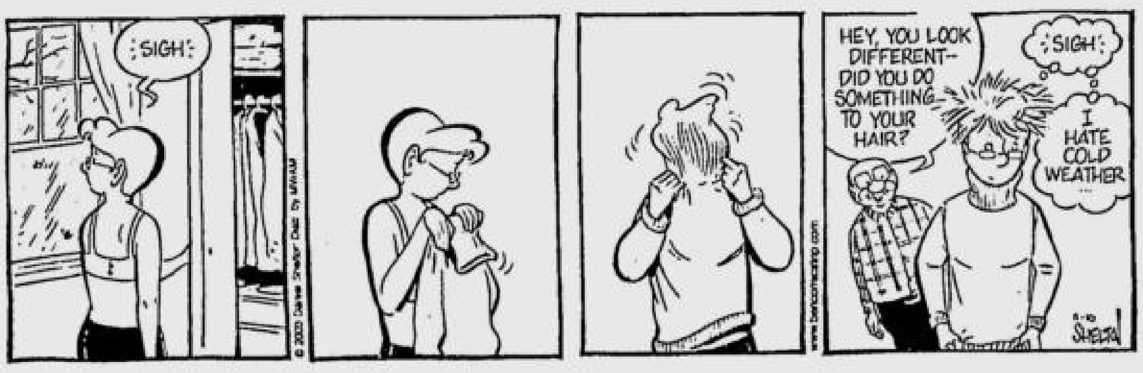
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SIRA ULO KA TALAGA NO?!!
TOTO! ANO BA, BA'T MO SINISIGAWAN SI BUNSOY?
E NAGKALAT SIYA KANINA, TAPOS NILIGPIT NIYA..
O, ANONG MASAMA DUN?
TINAPON NAMAN NIYA LAHAT SA KWARTO KO!

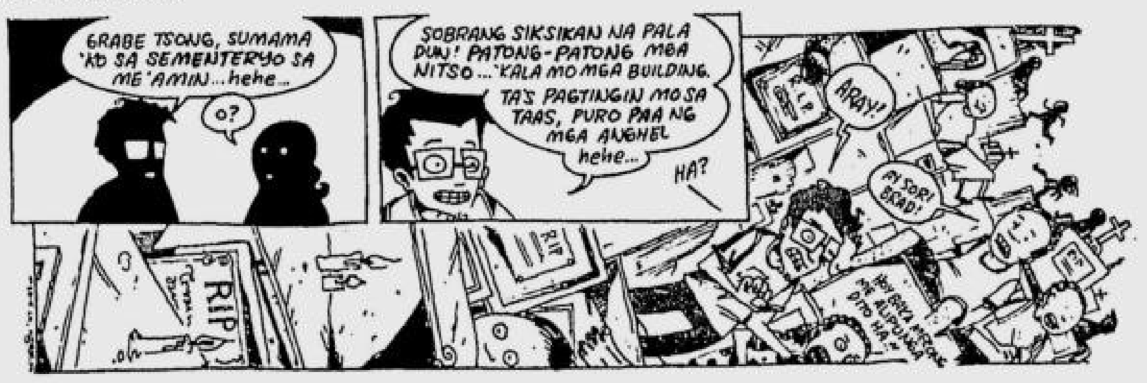
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


:SIGH:
HEY, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT-- DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO YOUR HAIR?
:SIGH:
I HATE COLD WEATHER

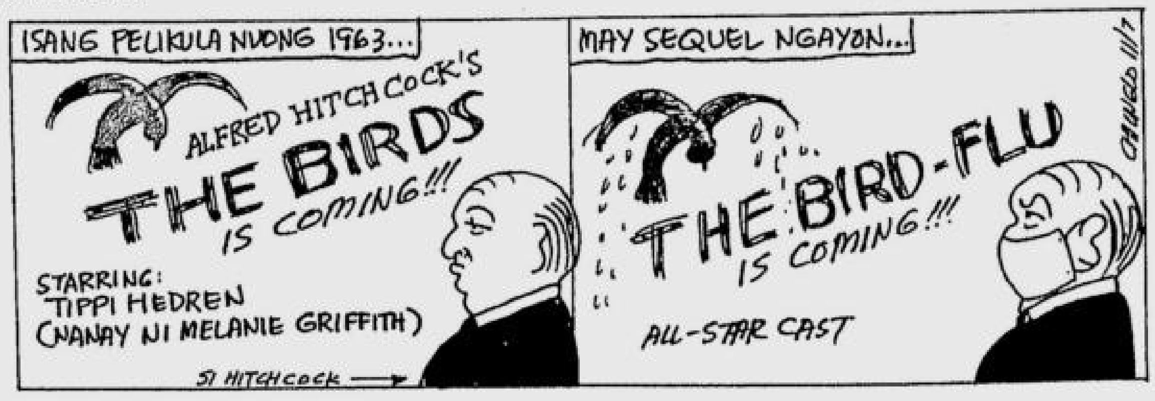
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE TSONG, SUMAMA 'KO SA SEMENTERYO SA ME 'AMIN...hehe...
O?
SOBRANG SIKSIKAN NA PALA DUN! PATONG-PATONG MGA NITSO...'KALA MO MGA BUILDING.
TA'S PAGTINGIN MO SA TAAS, PURO PAA NG MGA ANGHEL hehe...
HA?
ARAY!
AY SORI BRAD!
RIP

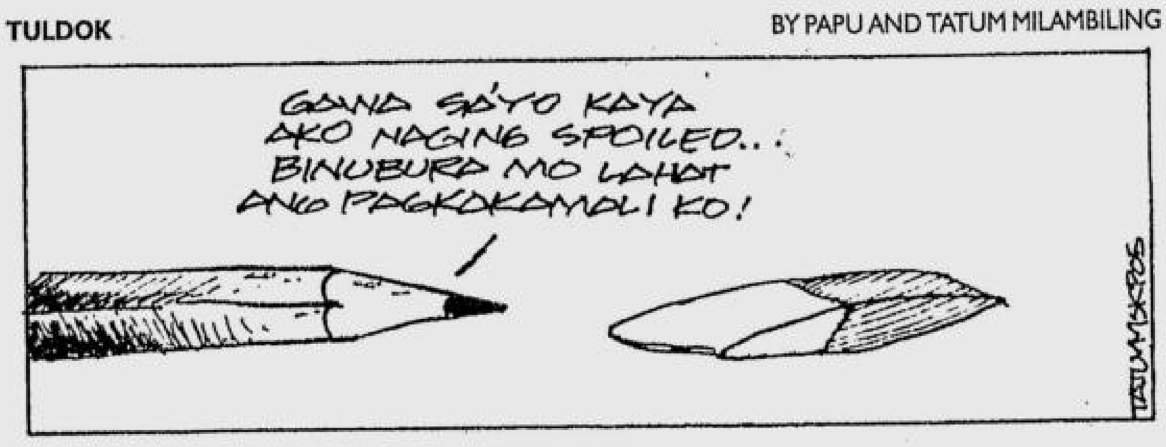
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ISANG PELIKULA NUONG 1963...
ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S THE BIRDS IS COMING!!!
STARRING: TIPPI HEDREN (NANAY NI MELANIE GRIFFITH)
SI HITCHCOCK
MAY SEQUEL NGAYON...
THE BIRD-FLU IS COMING!!!
ALL-STAR CAST

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GANDA SA'YO KAYA AKO NAGING SPOILED... BINUBURA MO LAHAT ANG PAGKAKAMALI KO!

ANNE Frank (above) and her family hid in this house (left) from the Nazis in Amsterdam, Netherlands, during World War II.

PPO concert honors Anne Frank

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IN 1942 IN NAZI-OCCUPIED HOLLAND, A JEWish girl named Anneliese (Anne) Marie Frank, barely out of puberty, received on her 13th birthday a diary from her parents. The diary, which she called "Kitty," became her best friend. For two years, Anne entered into her diary all her intimate thoughts, experiences and aspirations.

"She had never tried to write before, but it came as naturally as song to a bird," the critic Storm Jameson later wrote.

During those years when the Nazis were rounding up Jews all over Europe, Anne and her family hid in an office building in Amsterdam, in a "Secret Annexe" behind a concealed, movable bookcase.

The family was betrayed, heartbreakingly only a few months before the liberation of Holland. Anne and her family perished in concentration camps; only her father survived. Anne's diary was discovered by accident. When published in 1947, it made her world-famous. "The Diary of Anne Frank" is a classic of our times; it is a testament to the human spirit.

"I want to go on living after my death," Anne wrote. "And therefore I am grateful to God for giving me this gift... of expressing all that is in me."

Since then, there have been numerous stage, screen and TV adaptations of the diary. Here at home, in recent years, there have been stage productions by Repertory Philippines and Dramatic Personae.

Anne Frank will take centerstage again on Nov. 11 with the Philippine premiere of "From the Diary of Anne Frank," a work by Los Angeles-born composer Michael Tilson Thomas.

This will be performed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), under the baton of music director Eugene Castillo. Columnist-TV host Solita Monsod is the narrator, a role first essayed by (the late actress) Audrey Hepburn.

The concert is in coordination with the Embassy of The Netherlands and the Embassy of Israel.

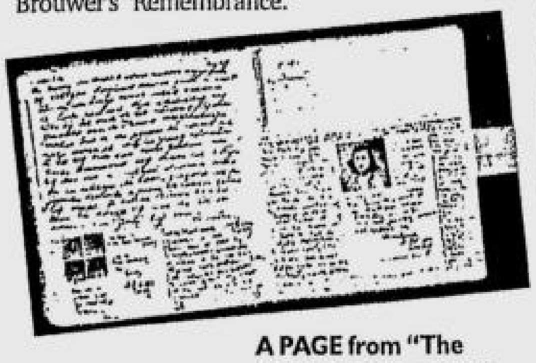
In a recent press conference at the Ayala Museum Café in connection with the concert, Second Secretary Marcel van den Bogaard of The Netherlands Embassy expressed sadness over the fact that some Filipino youths today can be seen wearing T-shirts with swastikas.

His indignation is justified. The hated Nazi symbol is now a fashion statement! This T-shirt should be banned, and the manufacturers and distributors should be called to account for their ignorance of history.

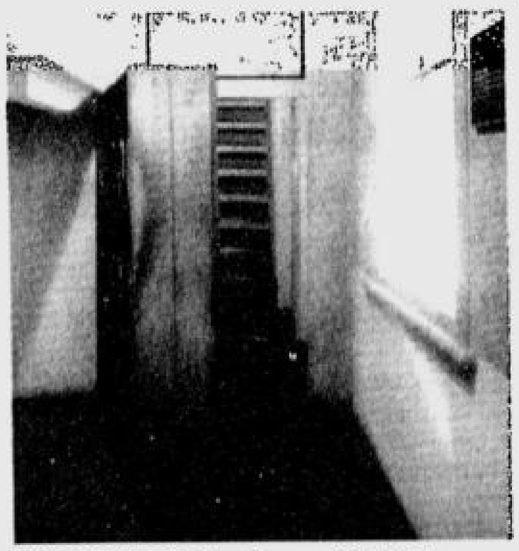
Also present during the press conference were Deputy Chief of Mission Guy Feldman of the Israeli Embassy, CCP president Nestor Jardin, Castillo, and Monsod.

"I'm not making a political statement... but that music can bring consolation and hope," Castillo stated. "Anne Frank believed in hope. It's inescapable what the message is... to hear this from a 15-year-old, set to music, before a large audience, it is... a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Oh, yes, the concert will also feature Beethoven's Symphony #1 and Margaret Brouwer's "Remembrance."



A PAGE from "The Diary of Anne Frank"



THE MOVEABLE bookcase which led to Anne Frank's hiding place

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Poets also tell tales

From page D1

Her poetics

In reply, Evasco elucidated the conceptual origin of her poem, restating her poetics in the process. "The idea of the origami poem is a take-off of my idea that poetry is really an aural art. It is not confined in space, on a page. When you read the poem, it really goes into time, which is what words are. When you think of it in terms of time dimension, when you read the poem, it leaps off, it goes somewhere, it goes into your body, into your ear, and then into your heart. So it should become empty. If it doesn't become empty, I will be very disappointed as a poet."

The exquisiteness of Evasco's voice at times unveils tinges of resignation, evoked in poems such as "Hua Mu Lan Greeting Her Spirit-Husband" and "Dreamweavers." Linmark observed that this resignation is not passivity, but maturity, clarity and creativity.

Her mode of creating concurs with the act of liberating. As Linmark put it, "It's letting go. Not thinking, not hoping for something hopeful to replace it. It's like a sigh."

Evasco confessed she finds herself writing more elegies. Her poem, "Hands," a tribute to Susanne Weber, begins with these verses of poignant beauty: "Do you remember the stillness/ Just before the music closed your eyes? / At the old water tower, he held you—silent as love, / And the quiet notes between his heartbeats / Flowed from his fingers to your waiting ears."

SHE said, he said. Evasco and Linmark debate their poetics.

Her poems of mourning illustrate Evasco's spirit of resilience and courage in the face of fragile mortality. "Letting go has something to do not with the pain having been consoled, for there is no consolation for that. It's a way of saying we move on, with a little bit of wisdom, we fumble along as human beings, but hopefully we have a few tricks up our sleeves so our hearts will not get broken, trampled upon, and we lose our selves."

Linmark likened the craft of writing to stealing. His poem, "First Lessons," refers to this: "attack, seduce, and yes, like the Marcoses,/ steal, steal everything and more. / Loot, horde, storm the Palace of Spines and rearrange / Dewey, the canons and the classics of tomorrow/ too. Just remember: in poetry there is / only one cardinal rule practiced by all: steal / with the intent to replace. This and yes, / don't rush. You still have a poem to write."

EVASCO. Poetry is an "aural art."

LINMARK. Writing is "stealing."

Linmark's poetic "thievery" becomes, to him, a form of art. "The art of stealing," he said, "is stealing in a way that my voice still dominates my poetry, so that I don't sound like Lorca, Neruda or Frank O'Hara. I will give it the Linmark flavor… or twist."

His credo indicates Linmark's acknowledgment and awareness of literary traditions, and his inventive attempts to veer away from them. His poetry shows traces of what T. S. Eliot calls "the historical sense… a perception, not only of the pastness of the past, but of its presence," but which has metamorphosed into an original voice, honest and lethal in its own fashion.

His complexity

Linmark's poetry manifests the dramatic complexity of his background and influences: He was born in the Philippines and raised in Hawaii. For instance, his endeavor to translate Frank O'Hara's "Ave Maria" into Pidgin English produced the remarkable poem "Auntie Mary," with a distinctive voice, ironic and excruciatingly humorous.

Evasco noted that Linmark's irony deals with presences and losses in culture, evident in poems such as "A Letter to Claire Danes from a Fan in Manila" and "The Battle Poem of the Republic."

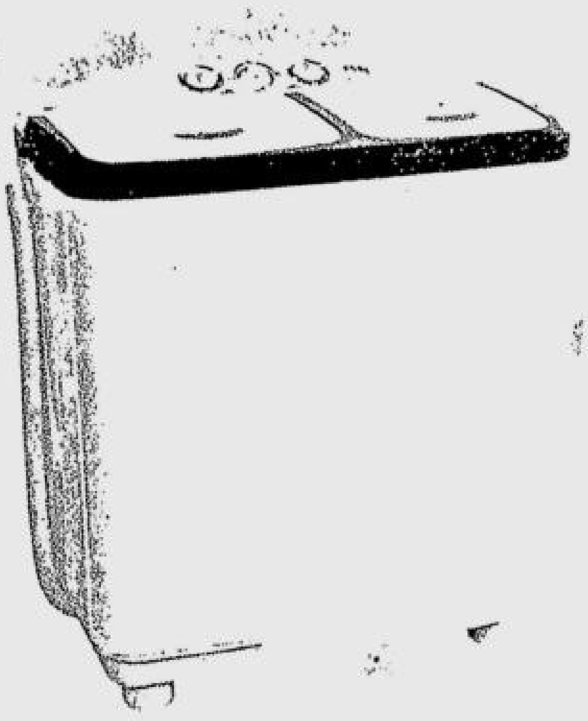
Linmark explained, "To live in a city like Manila, chaotic and dizzying, you have to have irony, you have to have humor to survive—which is very lacking in America, so stiff and OC and anal (Well, I am OC, too). I read Eastern European poetry and I love Wislawa Szymborska and Adam Zagajewski. There is so much humor, but look at what is happening there. In America, they are so boring. You want to tell them, relax, lubricate yourself."

National Artist F. Sionil José (who was in the audience) asked Linmark how important his Filipino background is to his writing. "It enriches my work, it problematizes my work, it gives me the opportunity to explore things Filipino and American," the young writer replied. "However, when I go into my room to write, I do not go there carrying my racial, my ethnic, my gender baggage. Sometimes the final product does not come out as my intent, so I just follow and if it leads me somewhere I don't know where, I go there. In the end though, it does filter in—being Filipino, being American, being all the above. It somehow works its way in, eventually. I don't make an issue out of it, though, I leave that to the scholars."

Poetry, in today's electronic media-controlled and prose-dominated milieu, continues to surface and thrive in quiet, little corners of the world, appealing to the basic human instinct for metaphoric pleasure and aural beauty. In "Writers in Conversation," Evasco and Linmark held the audience captive for an hour and more with the music and the intellectual intensity of their verses. They reaffirm Borges's assertion about poetry as story: " I do not believe men [and women] will ever tire of telling or hearing stories. And if along with the pleasure of being told a story we get the additional pleasure of the dignity of verse, then something great will have happened."

"Writers in Conversation" is a continuing series organized by the Department of Literature of De La Salle University.

For feedback, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.



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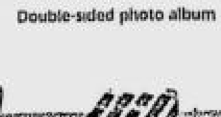

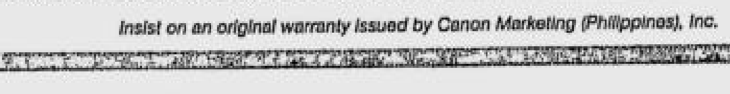

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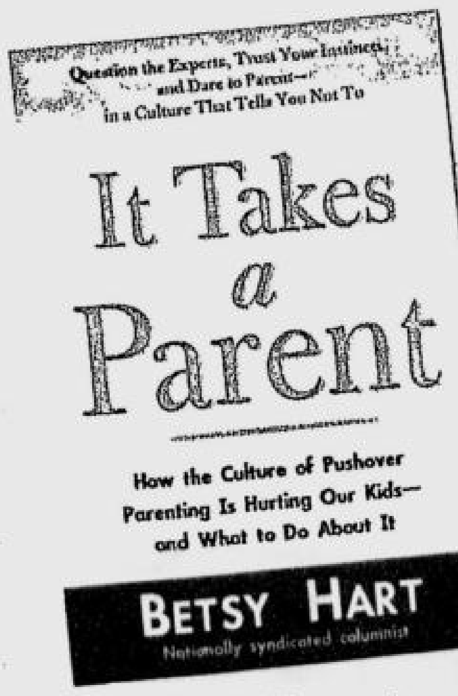
New books on parenting


Question the Experts, Trust Your Instincts and Dare to Parent—in a Culture That Tells You Not To
It Takes a Parent
How the Culture of Pushover Parenting Is Hurting Our Kids—and What to Do About It
BETSY HART
Nationally syndicated columnist

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